

Aeneas and Tabitha

Acts 9:32-43

by Don Falkos

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Peter went to visit the believers in Lydda. There he met a man named Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. Peter said, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up." Aeneas was immediately healed and got up. When the people of Lydda and the surrounding area saw him walking around and learned what had happened, many placed their faith in Jesus.

In the nearby town of Joppa there was a believer named Tabitha, also known as Dorcas, which means 'gazelle'; she was always doing things for others and helping the poor. Tabitha became ill and died. Some friends prepared her body for burial and placed it in an upstairs room. When the disciples in Joppa heard Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to ask if he would, "Please come at once!"

Peter went with them. When he arrived in Joppa he was taken to that upstairs room. All the widows stood around him crying and showing him the clothing Tabitha had made for them. Peter asked them all to leave the room. He knelt and prayed. Then he spoke to the dead woman, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called in the believers and presented her to them alive.

News spread all over Joppa, and many people believed in Jesus. Peter stayed in Joppa for a while with Simon the tanner.