

An Attractive Savior

Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

Sermon Outline:

- I. Compassion on the Weak (32-35)
 - A. Body (32-33): The Gospel is good news for all of life, including our physical bodies.
 - B. Occupation (34-35): Jesus dignifies us by giving us work to do.
- II. Compassion on the Outcast (36-43)
 - A. Life (36-42): Jesus demonstrates His kingdom by reversing death.
 - B. Society (43): The Gospel is good news for all people, not just those we readily accept.

Discussion Questions

1. How has Jesus shown compassion to you in your weakness? How has He used people imitating Him to do it?
2. Do you tend to think of the Gospel in more spiritual terms, rather than physical? Why or why not?
3. How does the fact that the Gospel is good news for all of life inform the different kinds of ways you can bring the Gospel to bear on your sphere of influence?
4. What are practical ways in your work, neighborhood, family, social group, etc. that you can show the goodness of the Gospel, causing others to praise your father in Heaven?

5. How can you imitate Jesus by entering into someone's weakness?

Going Deeper

1. Are you willing to be uncomfortable in worship at times in order to make others feel welcome?
2. Are you willing to learn and appreciate others' way of worshipping in order that our corporate worship might better reflect that of Heaven?