

**THE AUTHENTIC APOSTLE!**  
**ACTS CH9:32-43**

**INTRODUCTION**

Who am I? I am Turkish! *I am buried in Lydda!* I am celebrated as a Saint! I was beheaded by Roman Emperor Diocletian, for refusing to give up Christ! My colours are a red cross on a white flag! I'm celebrated on April 23<sup>rd</sup>! I was celebrated as far back as the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, and when I was celebrated, it was as big as Christmas!

**PETER SEEING THE SAINTS! V32**

According to v31, the Church is now experiencing a time of "Peace" and it is at this time that the Apostle Peter chooses to visit the Saints in the surrounding areas, no doubt to encourage and teach them! Lydda is included and is around 25 miles North-West of Jerusalem with Joppa a further 10 miles in the same direction.

The structure of the Book of Acts is really interesting as Luke follows an essentially ***geographical outline*** that is initially set in Jerusalem Ch1:1-14, that then moves from Jerusalem (Ch1:15 – Ch6:7), through Judea, Samaria, Syria and Arabia (Ch6:8 – Ch9:31), on into Palestine-Syria (Ch9:32 – Ch12:24), then to the Gentiles in the eastern part of the Roman Empire (Ch12:25 – Ch19:20), and finally culminates in Paul's defences and the entrance of the Gospel into Rome (Ch19:21 – Ch28:31)!

So why now, in the 4<sup>th</sup> geographical outline, does Luke record for Theo these two vignettes (short stories)?

1. Is it because of the change in geography, out of Jerusalem?
2. Is it because of the change in ethnicity, Jews and Gentiles?
3. Is it because of the change in Peter needed for meeting Cornelius?
4. Is it because of all three?

**PETER SAYING "RISE AND MAKE YOUR BED!" V33-35**

Are these Christians from:

1. Acts Ch2:5-41?
2. Acts Ch8:1-4?
3. Acts Ch8:26; Ch8:40; Ch21:8?

Whatever the case, Peter comes across Aeneas, someone who has been disabled and bedridden for 8 years! We are not told if Aeneas is a Jew or a Christian, but despite his Greek name, he is probably both a Jew and a Christian, based on v32 and Peter coming to see the Saints!

Look at Peter's interaction with Aeneas:

1. V34 Peter tells him "Jesus Christ heals you, rise and make your bed." Immediately the man is healed!
2. How is this similar to Matt Ch9:1-8; Mark Ch2:3-12; Luke Ch5:18-26 and Jesus healing the paralysed man? Jesus says to the paralysed man "Rise, pick up your mat/bed and go home." Immediately the man is healed!
3. V35 - In Peter's case, the people who are there and see the healed man, seek and turn to the Lord, sadly not in Jesus' case!

***Luke is deliberately presenting Peter, as an authentic apostle of Jesus Christ who performs the signs and wonders of a true apostle (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor Ch12:12).***

### **PETER SAYING “TABITHA ARISE!” V36-43**

Luke now provides much more information:

- clearly setting out that Tabitha is a disciple v36
- that her name both in Hebrew and Greek means “Gazelle” v36
- that she has started a charity that is chiefly for helping the destitute v36+v39, she could have been a lady of means, using her freedom to do good deeds! **Once again generosity surfaces as a sign of the Spirit's work in those who turn to Christ (Ch2:44-45; Ch4:32-37)**
- She had become ill and died v37
- But her people loved her and were not prepared yet, to let her go v37 as they had not yet anointed her for burial
- These actions, taking the body to the upper room and not anointing the body yet and sending for Peter, suggest that they had some hopes of Tabitha being raised from the dead, perhaps based on 1 Kings Ch17:17-24 – Elijah; or 2 Kings Ch4:10-37 – Elisha.

Where has Peter been instrumental in physical healings before? **Ch3:1-10; Ch5:12-16; Ch9:32-35, and it was Peter who challenged Ananias and Sapphira, leading to their deaths Ch5:1-11.**

How is Peter's interaction with the scene, similar to Jesus' with Jairus' daughter in Matt Ch9:18-26, Mark Ch5:21-43 and Luke Ch8:41-56?

1. V39 They both leave immediately.
2. V37 They are both dealing with dead people.
3. V39 They are both dealing with crowds who are mourning.
4. V40 They both put the crowds outside.
5. V40 Peter is alone (Jesus had Peter, James and John with him).
6. V40 Peter kneels and prays!
7. V40 They both say almost the identical same thing, with one letter difference!
8. V40 They both respond immediately!
9. **V42 Many believed in Peter's case!**

**V40 – The reality of the miracle is stressed in simple terms “And she opened her eyes and when she saw Peter she sat up.” This was an exceptional exhibit of God's scandalous mercy and the Spirit's power!**

### **APPLICATION**

The risen Lord Jesus continues to heal through Peter.

The risen Lord Jesus wants to continue to bring healing through us.

The Lord Jesus can bring healing through us, which can also lead people to Christ.

Keep exercising your faith by prayer for peoples healing.