

The Miracles of Grace

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Acts 9:32-43

August 28, 2011



SETTING THE SCENE

- » Have you ever been miraculously healed by God or have you known someone who has been? Share the experience with the group. What made it a miracle? Do you know someone who needs a miracle of any sort? Share this with the group and keep them in mind as you pray to either start or close your group study together.
- » Have you ever prayed for something—healing, finances, job issues, relational stuff, etc—and NOT gotten the answer you were looking for? Why do you think that happens even though God promises to answer our prayers if we ask with the right motives? Discuss this issue as a group and how you reconcile it as a Christ Follower.

THE STUDY

- » Share your overall thoughts and impressions from the sermon this morning. What things stand out to you? What did you learn? Where did God most challenge you? What questions do you still have about the passage or the sermon?
- » Read **ACTS 9:32-43** out loud as a group. What is your initial reaction to this verse and why do you think the teaching team elected to teach on this one singular verse? What do we as a church need to learn from this passage? What specifically do you need to put into practice?
- » This morning Ray said that “the healing that God does inside of a person is more important than what He does physically to a person”. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Back up your answer with Biblical examples and examples from your own life. Why is this principle so important?
- » What similarities do you see between Aeneas’ healing story and Peter raising Tabitha from the dead? What does Peter say to Aeneas? What does he say to Tabitha’s body? What happens after Aeneas is healed? What happens after Tabitha is raised from the dead? Why is this significant?
- » In the sermon this morning Ray taught that *In Healing, God Cares About...*
 1. INDIVIDUALS (John 10:27-28)

Why do you think Peter selected Aeneas to demonstrate God’s healing power when there were so many others that needed healing? How did he select Aeneas and what should we learn from this?

How does it make you feel to know that God is seeking you out personally to provide healing to your soul? Do you actually believe this? Why or why not? What difference does it make in your life every day?
 2. THE INVESTMENT OF LIFE (Luke 6:36)

What was Tabitha most known for? Why do you think Luke makes a point to bring this up in the story?

How did Peter respond to the request regarding Tabitha’s life? How would you respond if something like this happened today (be honest here!)?

Why was it so incredible that Peter would deal with a dead body such as Tabitha’s? What does this mean for us? For the church?
 3. THE SPIRITUAL MORE THAN THE PHYSICAL (Luke 15:7)

Why was it so incredible that Peter would stay with Simon the Tanner?

What does it say about Peter that he would deal with a crippled man, a dead woman, and live with a tanner (as a Hebrew)? What is the lesson in this for you? For the church? What do we “avoid” because it’s just “not right”?
- » What one thing from this morning has stuck with you (maybe even something we haven’t covered yet)?

APPLICATION

- » What miracle do you need from God right now (or what miracle does someone you know need)? Write it down here and share it with the group:

Take some time to pray for each of the miracles that your group shares. If there are many of them, break into groups of 4-6 and pray for each of the miracles in the smaller group.

- » Do you truly believe that God is seeking you and wants the best for you? Sometimes we believe this in our heads (we know it's *supposed* to be true), but we don't always believe it with our hearts. If that's you...share it with the group and spend some time discussing and praying about it.
- » What "things" are you afraid to deal with, confront, touch because they we've been taught that Christians aren't supposed to do/touch/speak to, etc.? What have you learned from this morning's story that apply to this? What will you do differently as a result?
- » Share any unanswered questions or comments you have as a result of the group discussion or sermon...

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- » Next week Peter is back in the limelight in **ACTS 10:1-11:18**. Read this story and discuss the key lessons in the story. Why do you think Luke included these events in his narrative? This is a turning point for the apostles, for the church, and for the world—why do you think it's such an important turning point?
- » What one thing stands out to you personally in this passage? What do you want to learn more about?
- » Spend some time reading through this story during the week. As you read it through several times, what patterns start to emerge? What surprises you? What is God trying to teach you through this passage?
- » Write down any questions you have about this verse and be prepared to discuss them next week (after the sermon).

CARING COMMUNITY

- » **SHARE** with the group how God has been speaking into your life or challenging you this past week (this may be as a result of the sermon or something in your personal journey). Is there anything from this week's LifeGroup discussion you need to work on?
- » Are there any **NEEDS** you have coming up in your life that the group can help you with (this may include spiritual needs, life needs, pretty much anything...)
- » **PRAY** for one another. Share your requests and praises with one another. Write them down here. If you commit to praying, please be sure you do it...