

saw it on this fashion!”

- What A Remarkable Parallel:

- Between Those Two Miracles Of Healing!

- By Jesus! By Peter!

- And Yet - In 9:34 - What Does Peter Say To Aeneas? “*Jesus Christ* Maketh Thee Whole!”

- It Was, In Truth, *Jesus* Who Healed:

- *Both* Paralyzed Men!

- And His Work Continues To This Day! But Then - In:

- 9:36 - “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did!”

- Here Is The Location Of The Town Of Joppa!

- Here Are Some Of The Ancient Ruins Of Joppa!

- Of Course - The Most Notable Figure In The Bible Associated With Joppa Is The Prophet Jonah!

- And So - The Story Continues In:

- 9:37-43 - “And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. / 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. / 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. / 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. / 41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. / 42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord. / 43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner!”

- Now - Once Again - Something About This Event In Joppa Sounds Familiar To Us As Well:

- Doesn't It?

- The Miracle That Was Wrought In Tabitha / Dorcas Is Another Echo Of A Miracle Wrought By Jesus Back In Mark 5!

- When A Young Girl / Maiden:

- Was Brought Back To Life By Jesus Christ Himself!

- Listen To How Mark Describes That Scene For Us In:

- Mark 5:40-42 - “But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. / And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. / And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment!”

- Another Remarkable Parallel:

- Between Those Two Miracles Of Life!

- By Jesus! By Peter!

- And The Words Used By Both Jesus & Peter To Address The Dead Differ By Only One Letter!

- Tabitha! Talitha!

4. It Seems Clear That Peter:

- Had Listened Closely & Learned Well:

- From His Master!

- He Would Have Seen Jesus:

- Heal That Man:

- “Sick Of The Palsy!”

- He Would Have Heard Jesus:

- Raise The Dead With Those Words:

- “Talitha Cumi!”

- And He Was Able To Be Used By The Lord:

- To Continue His Healing & Saving Ministries:

- In This World!

- However - With The Notable Exceptions:

- Of Those Great Miracles Wrought By Jesus Through Peter:

- Those Days Were Really Not All That Different:
 - Than Our Own!
 - But - We Can Look Back At This Period Of Peace & Progress For The Church To See How Today's Church Should Function As Well!

4. And So - Tonight:
- I Would Like For Us To Look At:
 - 4 Key Elements:
 - In The Regular Life Of The Church!

* First - We See The Element Of:

1. Guidance!

- That Is - The Lord's Own Guidance:
 - Of His People & Of His Church!
 - There Have Been Times Of:
 - Special Guidance For The Church:
 - Through Extraordinary Means:
 - Like Prophecies & Dreams & Visions!
 - But - Most Of The Time - There Is The:
 - Regular Guidance Of The Church:
 - Through Ordinary Means:
 - Like Through God's Word, God's People, And God's Providence!
 - This Is What We See Taking Place:
 - In That Period Of "Rest" For The Church!
 - Peter Was Just Serving In His Ordinary Functions As An Apostle - "Passing Through All Quarters" It Says In 9:32 - Until He Arrived In Lydda!
 - And Then God Used Him To Heal Aeneas!
 - But Then - Instead Of Remaining There - Taking Advantage Of The Spiritual Awakening That Was Taking Place:
 - Peter Was Moved By The Summons:
 - Two Church Members From Joppa:
 - In 9:38-39 - "And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. / Then Peter arose and went with them!"
 - There Was No Delay!
 - There Was No Objection!
 - He Simply & Swiftly "Went With Them!"
 - This Is The Ordinary Guidance:
 - That Exists In The Life Of The Church!
 - And We Need To Be Sensitive To God's Guidance In Our Own Lives & In Our Own Church!
 - He Often Uses The Ordinary Means:
 - Of His Word, His People, And Even Our Own Circumstances, To Move Us!
 - And We Need To Be Ready To Move!

* Second - We See The Element Of:

2. Grace!

- That Is - The Lord's Own Grace:
 - Both Through & To His Church!
 - We See:
- The Lord's Grace **Through** His Church:
 - When The Lord Brought Peter To Lydda:
 - By His Providence!
 - So That He Might Meet With - 9:33 - "A Certain Man Named Aeneas!"
 - We Are Not Told If This Man Was A Christian At This Time - It Is Likely That He Wasn't & Became A Christian After He Was Healed!
 - But One Of The Main Reasons That He Was Healed:
 - Was To Show That Jesus:
 - Was Still At Work In This World:
 - Through His Body - The Church!

- Remember 1:1 - "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach!"

- And This Is Why The Church Is To Continue To Be As Gracious As Jesus Is!

- But We Also See:

- The Lord's Grace **To** His Church:

- When The Lord Brought Peter To Joppa:

- Also By His Providence!

- So That The Church There Might Be Encouraged When Their Beloved Sister & Friend Died!

- This Is The Ordinary Grace:

- That Exists In The Life Of The Church!

- And We Need To Be Sensitive To God's Grace In Our Own Lives & In Our Own Church!

- And Be Ready To Show The Ordinary Grace Of Christ To Those Around Us!

- No Matter Who They Are & No Matter What Their Problem!

* Third - We See The Element Of:

3. **Gifts!**

- That Is - The Lord's Gifts To His Church!

- It Is True - That In Those Early Days:

- God Gave Certain Disciples:

- And Especially The Apostles:

- Some Extraordinary & Miraculous Gifts!

- Like The Gifts Of Healing & Raising The Dead!

- But The Most Common Gifts:

- That The Lord Has Given To His Church:

- Are The More Ordinary Gifts:

- Like Those He Gave To That Dear & "Certain Disciple Named Tabitha, Which By Interpretation Is Called Dorcas!" (9:36)

- But - She Was As Full Of Ordinary Gifts As Peter Was Full Of Extraordinary!

- 9:36b - "This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did!"

- And What Kinds Of "Good Works" Did She Do?

- 9:39 - "And all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them!"

- Though Peter Had The Gift Of Healing:

- Dorcas Had The Gift Of Helps:

- And Her Gift Helped Many Who Were Destitute & Deprived Of Basic Necessities, Like "Coats And Garments!"

- This Too Is What The Ordinary Life Of The Church:

- Looks Like!

- Back Then! Even Today!

- The Church Comes Together With Their Ordinary Gifts & Uses Them To Meet Each Others' Needs!

- Just As We Use Our Bodies To Tend To Our Bodies! So Does Christ!

* And Fourth - We See The Element Of:

4. **Goals!**

- That Is - The Lord's Goals For His Church!

- As We Looked At This Morning:

- The Goals & Objectives Of The Church:

- Are High & Lofty Goals!

- It Is Nothing Less Than To "Present Every Man Perfect In Christ Jesus!" (Colossians 1:29)

- But What May Seem Like Extraordinary Goals:

- Are Really Rather Ordinary:

- In The Life Of The Church!

- Because - As The Church Exercises Itself Through The Ordinary Guidance & Grace & Gifts Of The Lord:

- The Results That We Read About In Lydda & In Joppa Will Be Ordinary As Well!

- The Results In Lydda:

- Are Found In 9:35:

- When - After Aeneas Was Healed By Peter:

- "And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord!"

- The Change That Took Place In Aeneas Life - Both Physical & Likely Spiritual:

- Caught The Attention Of Everyone Around Town!

- And Many:

- "Turned To The Lord!"

- And Received Forgiveness For Their Own Sins!

- And Isn't This The Ordinary Goal The Church?

- To See People "Turn To The Lord!"

- But Then:

- The Results In Joppa:

- Are Found In 9:42:

- When - After Dorcas Was Brought Back To Life:

- "And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord!"

- Once Again - The Testimony Of Dorcas As Well As Her Resurrection:

- Caught The Attention Of Everyone In Her Town As Well!

- And Many:

- "Believed In The Lord!"

- This Is The Ordinary Goal:

- In The Life Of The Church!

- And When We Continue To Live Our Rather Ordinary Christian Lives:

- In Faithfulness To The Lord:

- As Peter & Even As Dorcas:

- God Can Use The Ordinary To Accomplish The Extraordinary!

- As People Continue To Turn To & Believe In The Lord!

Conclusion:

1. This Is What The Ordinary:

- Life Of The Church Is Like!

- Back Then & Even Today! And So:

- We Need To Keep:

- Trusting In:

- The Ordinary Guidance:

- Of The Lord!

- We Need To Keep:

- Manifesting:

- The Ordinary Grace:

- Of The Lord!

- We Need To Keep:

- Exercising:

- The Ordinary Gifts:

- Of The Lord! And:

- We Need To Keep:

- Pursuing After:

- The Ordinary Goal:

- Of The Lord!

2. Because More Often Than Not:

- It Is Through The Ordinary Life:

- Of His People & Of His Church:

- That Jesus Uses To Accomplish The Most Extraordinary Things!

- Like Bringing His Power:

- Into Our Weakness! And:

- Like Bringing His Life:

- Into Our Death!

- So - Keep On Living:
- The Ordinary Christian Life!

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