

Arise  
Acts 9:32-43 ESV  
Reality Carpinteria (July 22, 2018)

## Intro

- Welcome
- Read Acts 9:32-43 ESV
- Pray
  
- Luc Ferry, French philosopher, secular humanist. *A Brief History of Thought*
  - Philosophy essentially comes down to dealing with the problem of death, and argues - as an agnostic - that the Christian faith has the strongest and most coherent response to death.
  - **“The Christian response to mortality, for believers at least, is without question the most ‘effective’ of all responses: it would seem to be the only version of salvation that enables us not only to transcend the fear of death, but also to beat death itself.” Luc Ferry**
- The resurrection of Jesus is the kind of thing, that even if you don’t believe it, you want to.
  - The possibility...
- The gospels: The resurrection of Jesus
- Acts: The people of Jesus experiencing his resurrection life. (ripple effects)
- Today
  - Two different difficult situations and one remedy
  - A story of a sick man, a dead woman, and living savior.

## A Sick Man (vs. 32-35)

- vs 32-33
  - [32] Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. [33] There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.
- “Bedridden for eight years... paralyzed” (vs. 33)
  - Holistic suffering (physical, social, religious)
  - Holistic suffering requires holistic healing
- vs. 34
  - [34] And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose.
- “Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed”
  - Remember: A miracle or a healing is not a party trick or a raw display of power.
    - Miracles... Reveal who Christ is, restore what’s broken, and remind of the hope to come
      - **Reveal who Christ is**
        - Jesus is the great healer
          - Peter had been getting popular...
          - This happens today...
        - Jesus is not a magician, he’s a messiah...
      - **Restore what’s broken**

- When Jesus heals... he's bringing something back to the way it's meant to be. It's restoration.
- **Tim Keller**
  - **“We modern people think of miracles as the suspension of the natural order, but Jesus meant them to be the restoration of the natural order. The Bible tells us that God did not originally make the world to have disease, hunger, and death in it. Jesus has come to redeem where it is wrong and heal the world where it is broken.”**
- **Remind of the hope to come**
  - Healings are a foretaste of the glory that is one day guaranteed
  - COSTCO SAMPLES
- “Jesus Christ heals you; ...*Rise*” (vs. 34b)
  - Rise = anestemi = resurrection
  - Hint: this is a clue to the meaning of this whole passage.
- “Rise *and make your bed*”
  - Funny: paralyzed for 8 years, and the first thing he has to do is make his bed.
  - But you know what: I bet he loved it. The things we take for granted.
  - SEARCEY
- Read vs. 35
- “and they turned to the Lord” (not just a random statement)
  - **Acts 1:8**
    - **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**
  - Witness = to testify about. To point to. = look at him.
  - It's happening.
  - We too, are called to witness to Christ
  - KARL BARTH, Matthias Grunewald, “Crucifixion”
    - All of his theology = a finger pointing to Christ crucified
    - All of our lives...
- Transition: Paralyzed/Bedridden → Dead

## A Dead Woman (vs. 36-43)

- vs. 36
  - **[36] Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.**
  - Her name means gazelle. Tabitha is Aramaic. Dorcas is the Greek word.
  - “A disciple”... “She was full of good works and acts of charity”
    - Noteworthy the way that the early church talked about women.
    - Countercultural
  - But now...
- vs. 37
  - **[37] In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.**

- “She became ill and died”
  - Last story: Paralyzed, and bed written...
  - Now, a step further: death.
  - By putting these stories back to back, it’s as if Acts is saying:
    - No matter how bad your situation, Christ is greater
    - Even unto death.
    - The darker the backdrop, the brighter his light shines.
- **Read vs. 38-41**
  - **Peter is mimicking Jesus**
    - Whole story is reminiscent of Jesus healing Talitha – tell story
    - It’s almost as if you can see Jesus doing it again, but thru Peter
    - This is what the book of Acts is about.
      - Acts 1:1 – In my first book... all that Jesus began to do...
      - Acts: Jesus continuing his mission through the Spirit-empowered church
        - Jesus... his disciples...
        - Jesus... his disciples...
      - Matt 25 – the least of these....
    - Jesus’ is continuing his mission in Carpinteria.
      - How? Through his spirit-empowered church.
      - How does Jesus...Lost. Hurting. Brokenhearted. Captives.
    - **Fanai Hrangkhuma (India)**
      - **“Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the redemptive reign of God in Jesus Christ should be manifested in the church.”**
  - **Arise** = anestemi = “resurrect”
    - Vs. 40 - “Tabitha, resurrect.”
    - Vs. 41 – “And he gave her his hand and resurrected her.”
    - Christ’s resurrection → our resurrection life
      - Jesus said “I am the resurrection”
      - But he also said, I have come that *they* may have life" (John 10:10)
        - Not bios
        - Zoe
      - This is life-changing.
        - Becoming a Christian isn’t a matter of just changing a few beliefs here and habits there, it’s going from death to life.
        - Salvation is not us working hard to be a good person and then God taking care of the rest.
        - It’s a shift in being that’s as radical as going from no heart beat to a heart beat.
      - The same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to us today.
        - The resurrection reminds us that there is power in the name of Jesus
          - Power to turn your life around
          - Power to heal your wounds
          - Power to redeem your past
          - Power to direct your future
          - Power to forgiven your sin

- C'mon... If anyone's experienced the power of Jesus you can say amen.
        - Power to give you hope
        - Power to bring you joy
        - Power to break the chains
        - Power to put your feet on solid ground
        - Power to give you a new name
          - C'mon... You can say hallelujah. You can praise the Lord.
  - It's all about Jesus.
  - In our passage today, 2 very dif stories, 2 dif situation, but one remedy: Jesus.
    - The story of Aeneas' sickness reveals the healing power of Jesus
    - The story of Tabitha's death shows the resurrection power of Jesus
    - The example of Peter shows the ongoing work of Jesus
    - The whole book of Acts is shining a spotlight on Jesus.
  - You too, can experience the power of Jesus.
  - Gal 2:20
  - Rom 8:17 – “we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him”
- Joppa 3x - why
  - Joppa was where Jonah ran away from the Lord
  - Now Joppa is the place where the Lord is running after his people.
  - One greater than Jonah is here.
  - Jonah went into the fish for 3 days and came out alive
  - Jesus went into the belly of the earth for three days and came out alive.
  - GOSPEL

Vs. 43 – “...many believed in the Lord”

- That's the response. Believe. Trust.
- Faith is not a one-time decision it's an ongoing dependence.

Corporate application

- Made alive together
- Cruise Ship / Battle Ship