

“Get in on the Action”

Introduction

- Wrapping up our series,
- Peter unleashed through the power of the Holy Spirit...in a big way
 - Jesus Heals a guy and Raises a woman from the dead through Peter

Tension: Focusing

- Expect God to show up and show out through signs, miracles, wonder
- Miracles of this magnitude are signs/guideposts that lead people to God, fuel faith, compel witnesses to believe in a powerful God able to intervene on people's behalf
 - Mighty Works! Leads to Mighty Faith
 - Get In On the Action

Acts 9: 32-35 (NIV)

- JESUS CHRIST HEALS YOU
 - Jesus is always the source of healing that takes place
- Not new thing that people healed through Peter - he had leaned into and claimed the authority that Jesus had given him
 - Authority of Jesus
 - **Matthew 28:18**
- Immediately
 - We able to claim authority and called to lay hands on others and pray for their healing
 - “Get In On the Action” - 0 people prayed for = 0 people healed
- Result of healing = People healed (Aeneas) & People believed
 - **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**

Acts 9:36-43

- Devoted!! Reminds me of Acts 2:42
 - Dorcas devoted to good works and acts of charity
 - “Always” doing good and helping the poor
 - Why we know not only her name, but her name in 2 languages (Hebrew and Greek)
- Peter here similar to Jesus in Mark 5
 - **Mark 5:38-42**
 - Difference in Jesus and Peter here= Peter prayed discerned the will of the Lord, Jesus didn't/ didn't need to
 - Imperative verb - command, not 'will you please'
 - Low Frequency of resurrection from the dead in addition to Resurrection of Jesus
 - there are three other occasions in the Luke-Acts:
 - the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-17),
 - Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:49-56)
 - Eutychus, a young man who Paul literally bored to death (Acts 20:7-12).

- Here in Acts, it is Tabitha (Dorcas, her Greek name) falls ill and dies and then is miraculously brought back to life.
 - Always for a purpose per God's desire, not ours
 - If based on human desire, funeral homes would go out of business
 - Death is part of the natural order, sometimes God disrupts the natural order for supernatural reasons
 - Purpose in this case?
 - Not clear why disciples called for Peter?...Tabitha was already dead; there's not record of him raising people from the dead before...likely that what happened was well beyond their expectation
 - Put them outside
 - Why?= No doubters?
 - Jesus in **Matthew 21:21-22**
 - A subject James was very passionate about=
 - **1:6-8**
 - **4:2-4**
 - **5:15-16**
- Result= Again= Based on miracle, People believed
- Believing/Expecting miracles
 - Story of Nashon and parting of Red Sea
- How? Teaching on the 5 step prayer model= Randy Clark [Take notes - write down]
 1. Interview
 2. Diagnosis & Prayer Selection (source)
 3. Prayer Ministry (claim authority commanding in Jesus' name action needed)
 4. Stop & Re-Interview
 5. Post Prayer Suggestions - what need to do to keep their healing (e.g., go to doctor and have assessed for any changes needed to medications, etc.)

Conclusion: JD Quote; be unleashed through the power of the Holy Spirit

- JD Walt quote= From the very first days of the Church, the Holy Spirit works as an equal opportunity employer. "Anyone can" and "everyone must" get in on the action. In other words, apostolic activity is in the job description of every baptized believer in Jesus Christ. We have lived through an age where the Church got it exactly backwards—where only the "paid professionals" were authorized to do the big stuff. The time has come again for every baptized Christian to seek the Holy Spirit for some good, old-fashioned apostolic imagination. What new territory, from a person to a province, a neighborhood to a nation, might the gospel break into through your life? No one needs to authorize you for apostolic work. You have apostolic authority. Go for it! It must become a blasphemous crime in today's church for anyone to utter the tepid words, "But I'm just a layperson."

Response

Practice 5 step prayer model