

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 01.17.2021

DIVINE UNITY – ACTS 9:32-43

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Ray stated - Jesus had Chosen Peter to be the Apostle to the Jewish People. It was his duty to reach out to the Jewish Believers wherever they were. They are now scattered all over Israel because of the persecution. So, he set out on a journey to visit and strengthen Believers and Preach Jesus "Yeshua," wherever he could. Peter encountered a tragic need, a man Aeneas who was paralyzed and bed-ridden for 8 years. Aeneas condition is as critical as it gets. Those caring for him were full of despair and hopelessness, but Jesus is about to break in and turn things around miraculously! Peter declares "Jesus The Messiah is healing you! Aeneas is unimportant to the world, a man of no reputation or significance. But he Was Important to the Lord! Peter gave a Command, then told him to make his bed! He acted on his faith, and Boom! Healed! Every healing is proof that Jesus is alive, and he is who he claims to be, and we should follow and obey Him. Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most or spoke to you from Pastor Ray's message this last weekend?
2. What person has best taught you what it means to love other people? How so?
3. What is the relationship between love and leadership?

We all know people who have lived in such a way that many grieve when they are gone. In today's passage, we'll look at a woman who made such a strong impression that all those who knew her could not bear for her to not be a part of their lives any longer. She was a leader because of the way she loved.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 9:32-35

1. What is significant about Peter's attributing Aeneas's healing to Jesus Christ?
2. What do the circumstances of this miracle tell us about Peter?

Jesus is credited with healing Aeneas, which reminds us that He is present and active in the Book of Acts. Early on in Acts, He gave His final commands to His disciples and then ascended into heaven, where He is now sitting at the right hand of the Father. But though He is in heaven, He still exercises power on earth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ carrying out the will of the Father in the name of the Son. And the result of the Spirit's work is people turning to the Lord Jesus Christ in faith and repenting of their sin.

We see Peter was a disciple who endeavored to fulfill Jesus' command to be His witness in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Peter traveled around sharing the gospel and performing miracles in Jesus' name. He did not aim to bring glory to himself but to point others to Christ so they would believe in Him. Peter demonstrated humility in healing Aeneas and attributed the power of the miracle to Jesus, to whom all glory rightfully belongs.

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 9:36-38

1. Tabitha was known for always doing good works and acts of charity. What would you like to be known for?
2. Why do you think the disciples in Joppa sent for Peter to come after Tabitha died?
3. What must they have believed about Peter to have sent for him?

It seems obvious from the next few verses that the disciples in Joppa sent for Peter to come because they were hoping for a miracle—that Peter would raise Tabitha from the dead. They knew he was an apostle empowered by the Spirit of Christ, and therefore he had the power to raise Tabitha from the dead. And their hope was fulfilled.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 9:39-42

1. What do you think Peter prayed about?
2. If you were one of the disciples in Joppa, what would have been your reaction to Peter's presenting Tabitha alive?
3. Why would this miracle have turned many to the Lord? What opportunities are before you to share the gospel and see the power of God at work?

Because of this miracle of raising Tabitha from the dead, many in Joppa believed in the Lord. No doubt the disciples shared the news of this miracle far and wide, and the evidence was available in the fact that Tabitha was walking around. It is noticeable how Peter's aim was that people would turn to the Lord, and not to himself. Apart from Christ, there would be no power in Peter. He could not have healed Aeneas, nor have raised Tabitha from the dead on his own. But with the power of God through the Holy Spirit, Peter was empowered to do great things and to point people to Jesus.

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

If there is one dogma that all practicing Jews ascribe to it is their "Shema," which means to "Hear" and is taken from Moses the Lawgiver. "Hear" (Shema) O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD" (Deut. 6:4). It is on the bedrock of this verse, with its pronouncement that God is "one" that Israel built her monotheistic view of God. It is this belief in the oneness of God which contributes more than anything to the Jewish race being distinct from and morally higher than the surrounding polytheistic nations in the ancient world. "We have one God" they assert. You Christians have 3, Father Son and Holy Spirit. Isn't God One?! But a deeper examination of the Shema is called for. The Heb. Word translated "one" is "echad." This word is used in the Bible as a uni-plural word noun. Adam and Eve were two different people. They both have intellect, emotion and will. They both think, feel and act. They exist uniquely. Yet when united as husband and wife, though distinct, they so complete one another they are one (echad). God is both plurality, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and a unity (echad). His name is "Elohim" which means "strength and faithfulness. He is a divine unity, and He is Faithful to Keep all His promises to you His Son's/Daughter's.

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

1. How does the Trinity reveal to us a divine unity? What example do we take from this as Christians?
2. With all the division we see in our society today, how can we take the example of "echad" to show the world our unity? (cc Jn 17:21)
3. What are some opportunities you have to display the power of God in your life (see 1 Pet. 4:11)?

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

PRAYER - Thank the Father for the power He gives us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to help you love and serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that people would come to faith in Jesus and give Him all the glory.

“That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (John 17:21)