

SPREAD THE WORD

A SERIES IN ACTS

Getting on the
Lord's Agenda
Acts 9:32-42

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Associate Pastor

 bethel *community*
CHURCH

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

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Acts 9:32-42 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. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. 35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. 36 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. -

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

37 In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. -

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40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner. (ESV)

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- *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.”*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

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I. God desires for us to proclaim Jesus to the unbelieving.

A. Faith in Jesus gives us a new message.

20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" -

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

I. God desires for us to proclaim Jesus to the unbelieving.

A. Faith in Jesus gives us a new message.

22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

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I. God desires for us to proclaim Jesus to the unbelieving.

A. Faith in Jesus gives us a new message.

- *Luke 24:46-48 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

I. God desires for us to proclaim Jesus to the unbelieving.

B. Faith in Jesus gives us a new mission.

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

I. God desires for us to proclaim Jesus to the unbelieving.

B. Faith in Jesus gives us a new mission.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

A. The Lord is at work as the Gospel of Christ spreads.

- *8:4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*
- *8:25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

A. The Lord is at work as the Gospel of Christ spreads.

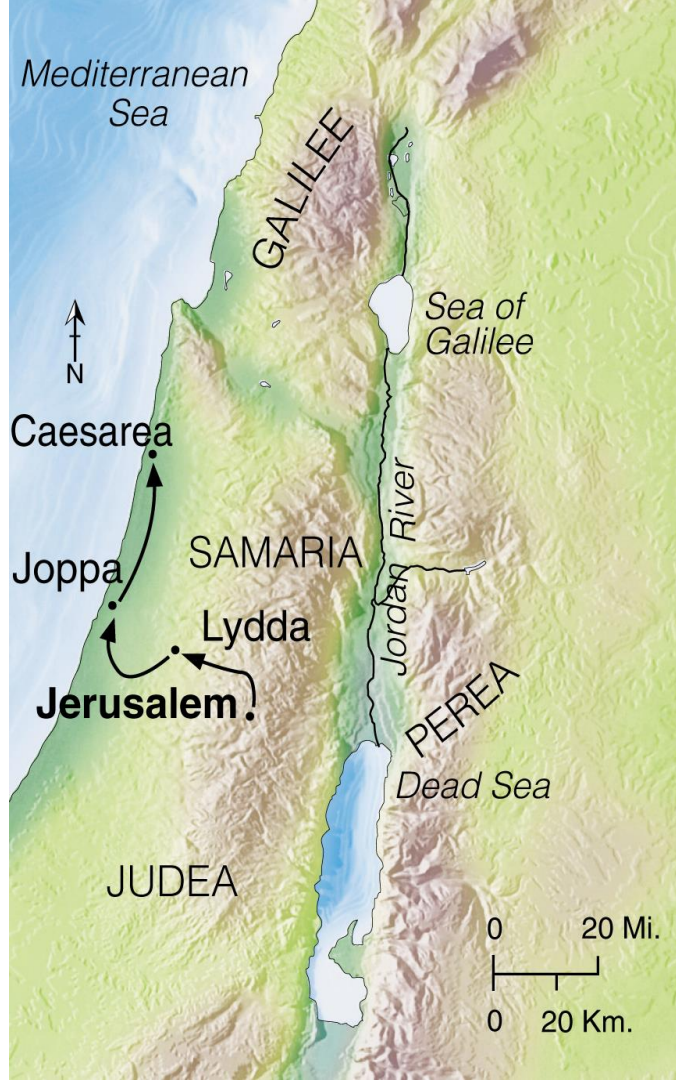
- *8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*
- *9:20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

B. The Lord is at work in the lives of His disciples.

32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.



Peter traveled to the ancient crossroads town of Lydda, where he healed a cripple named Aeneas.

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II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

B. The Lord is at work in the lives of His disciples.

32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

- *Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

C. The Lord is at work healing the sick.

33 There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose.

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

C. The Lord is at work healing the sick.

- *Matthew 10:1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

C. The Lord is at work healing the sick.

- *Matthew 10:7-8 And proclaim as you go, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

II. God desires for us to restore health to the suffering.

D. The Lord is at work drawing people to Himself.

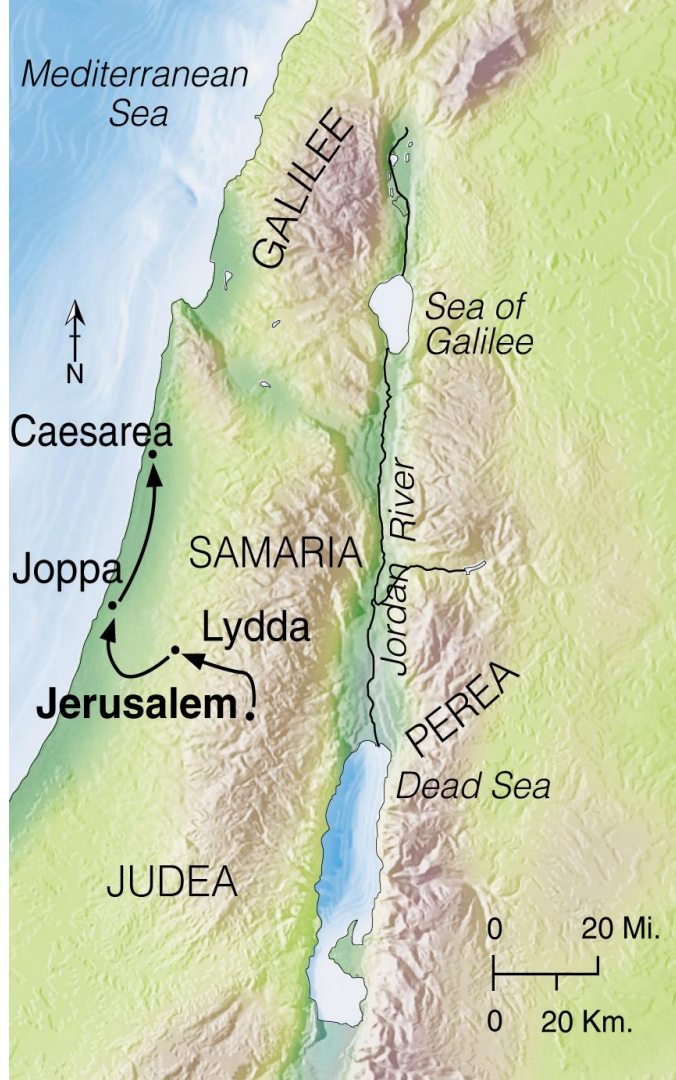
35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

III. God desires for us to bring life to the dead.

A. The caring are not immune to tragedy.

36 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. 37 In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.



The believers in Joppa, an old port city, sent for Peter after a wonderful woman named Tabitha died. Peter went and brought her back to life.

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

III. God desires for us to bring life to the dead.

A. The caring are not immune to tragedy.

- *1 Corinthians 12:25-26 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

III. God desires for us to bring life to the dead.

B. The devastated are desperate for help.

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Please come to us without delay.”

- *Psalms 69:20 Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

III. God desires for us to bring life to the dead.

B. The devastated are desperate for help.

- *Romans 12:9-12 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

Getting on the Lord's Agenda

III. God desires for us to bring life to the dead.

C. The godly are dependent on God to give life to the dead and dying.

- Prayer acknowledges dependency upon the Lord.

39 So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning -

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to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

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- Faith acknowledges the Lord's power over death.

40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

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III. God desires for us to bring life to the dead.

C. The godly are dependent on God to give life to the dead and dying.

- The Gospel acknowledges salvation for all people.

42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

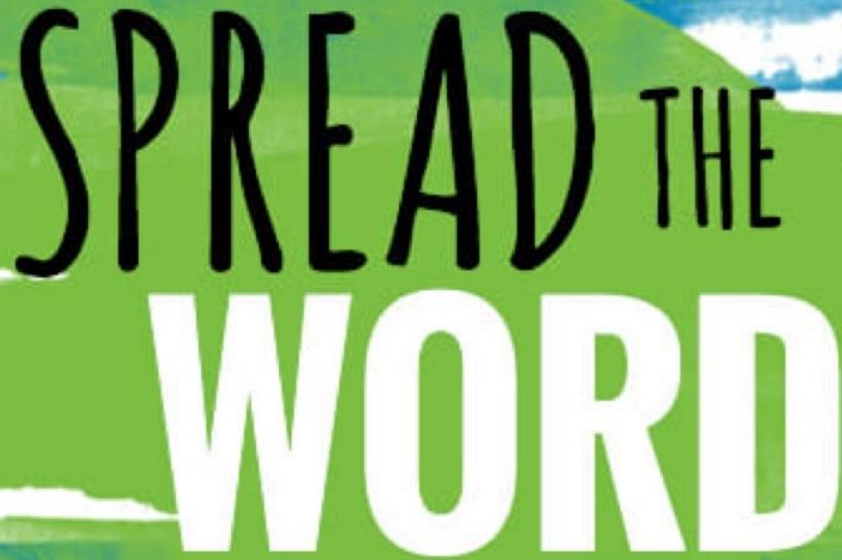
Getting on the Lord's Agenda

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We get on the Lord's agenda when we:

- proclaim Jesus to the unbelieving
- restore health to the suffering
- bring life in Christ to the dead and dying

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