

PETER, ÆNEAS AND DORCAS

April 13, 1902

Acts 9 : 32-43—Memory Verses, 40-42.

Golden Text—Jesus Christ maketh thee whole.—Acts 9 : 34.



32 And it came to pass, as Pe'ter passed throughout all *quarters*, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lyd'da.

33 And there he found a certain man named Æne'as, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

34 And Pe'ter said unto him, Æne'as, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole : arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

35 And all that dwelt at Lyd'da and Sa'ron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

36 Now there was at Jop'pa a certain disciple named Tab'itha, which by interpretation is called Dor'cas : this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

37 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 for as much as Lyd'da was nigh to Jop'pa, and the disciples had heard that Pe'ter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring *him* that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Pe'ter 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 showing the coats and garments which Dor'cas made, while she was with them.

40 But Pe'ter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed ; and turning *him* to the body said, Tabi'tha, arise. And she opened her eyes : and when she saw Pe'ter, 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 Jop'pa ; and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Jop'pa with one Si'mon a tanner.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The apostles now spent their time in visiting and encouraging the new churches that had sprung up in different towns all over Judæa and Samaria. And Peter, going from place to place, came to the town of Lydda, where there was also a company of Christ's people.

Here he found a sick man named Æneas, who had been bed-ridden for eight years with paralysis. And Peter said to him, " Æneas, Jesus Christ cures you ; get up and put away your bed." Then the helpless man stood up, and when they saw how he had been cured, many others among the people of Lydda and their friends came forward and believed on Christ.

Now, not far from Lydda was the sea-port town of Joppa. Here lived a good woman named Dorcas, who spent all her time in do-

ing kind deeds among the poor and sick. This woman was well known as a good sewer, for she and her friends used to meet together to make warm coats and clothing for the poor. But one day Dorcas took suddenly ill and before long she was dead.

Then there was great mourning and weeping among the believers at Joppa, for they all loved Dorcas, and they took the dead body of their friend and laid it on a bed in a large upstairs room.

The believers had heard that Peter was only a few miles away, at Lydda ; so they sent two men running to him at once with a message, begging that he would come to them immediately and comfort them in their great trouble. So Peter got up and returned with the messengers to Joppa and came at once into the room where the body was lying.