

“Unleashed”

September 10, 2017

Acts 9:32-10:35, 44-48

CORE: This is the story of a man unleashed from limitations.

1. His FAITH was unleashed.

Acts 9:32-43

- **In Acts 3, a lame man asked for loose change—and was radically changed! He wanted enough to get through the day—and received more than he could have asked for!**
- **Faced with another lame man (“Aeneas”)—Peter did what he had seen Jesus do.**
 - **He didn’t treat “miracles” as *occasional exceptions* or “*rare supernatural occurrences*” (*Modern Webster’s Dictionary*)**
 - **Rather, he saw them as “*the normal activity of God in human affairs.*” (*Webster’s Original Dictionary*)**
 - **NOTE: Gifts are free—maturity costs us; requires investment. [FAITH is a gift—PERSEVERENCE is continued investment]**
 - **“Contentment” is not settling for less—it is refusing to allow delayed answers to rob us of joy & expectancy**
 - **NOTE: “ALL...turned to the Lord” (9:35)**
- **Peter’s response to Lydia’s death: “He got down on his knees and prayed.” (9:40)**
 - **NOTE: Courage is not a “know-it-all” attitude—it is a trusted confidence that flows from a “knowing Him” attitude.**
 - **“Reigning in life” (Romans 5:17) presses into the most difficult events with the assurance of God’s love & power—bringing the aroma of His royalty (2 Cor. 2:14).**

2. His LOVE was unleashed.

- **Lydda & Joppa were the two most important coastal cities—completely Jewish. (*Tempting to stay in the comfort zone of your own people*)**
- **Peter stayed with “Simon the tanner”—one step toward his connection with Gentiles (*i.e., Devout Jews were forbidden to be around dead animals—common at tanner’s home*)**
- **This was a matter of LORDSHIP.**
 - **Acts 10:14- “Surely not, Lord!” (*i.e., “I refuse to obey You, O absolute Lord of my life!”*)**
 - **He is “renewing our youthfulness” to increase our flexibility!**

- **NOTE: This is an all ages, both genders, “flowing-together-as-ONE” generation!**
- **This is a matter of LOVE.**
 - **Fear will limit us. Love unleashes us. We conquer our fears by increasing our love.**
 - **Peter’s fear of the Gentiles was conquered by revelation of Father’s heart for all His children!**
 - **We simply cannot write off, avoid, or condemn those we are afraid of.**
 - **More than a food choice—this was a choice to connect with. (NOTE: Meals were covenantal & honoring; Rev. 3:20)**
 - **In the end—Peter “stayed with them for several days” (10:46)—and ate Gentile food!**

We are being UNLEASHED to move with barrier-breaking love---and bondage-breaking faith. Just as Peter’s message was “interrupted” by a fresh move of HS—our steadily will be interrupted by His “suddenlies”!

Anticipate “fresh fire” of HS—as He is moving with unbridled passion—breaking into unlikely places (and being received—much like the house of Cornelius—the Roman army officer)!