

FOOTNOTE - AENEAS

Subject Block: The Kingdom of God

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Acts 9:32 – 35

Eight years must have seemed like ‘forever’ to be paralysed and bed-ridden!

- We assume that before the commencement of those 8 torturous years, Aeneas had been as fit, as active and as full-of-beans as every teenager is meant to be.
- His strong, youthful body had once done whatever he wanted ... the vehicle in which Aeneas had climbed trees, explored caves, and engaged in many a fun-fight with his mates.
- He was one of those ‘stand-out’ kids ... everyone noticed him, everyone seemed to like him ... fun-kids who live life to the full are like that.
- Aeneas was really too old to still be playing that ‘race you to the top of the tree’ game with his mates ... if only he hadn’t.
- The fact that some of the lower branches broke his fall was the reason he wasn’t killed in that fall ... however, he seemed destined to never climb again, run again, or even walk again.
- Sure there was immense pain in his body as the months turned into years. But the torture in his heart and mind was unbearable.
- He would never have children, never eat or use the bathroom unaided again, never fulfil but one of his childhood dreams, and he would never fulfil the potential that everyone had seen in him.

We first meet Peter when Jesus enlists him in his band of disciples...

- For three years he observed Kingdom authority in action ...
- walked on water.
- Always inquisitive, “Why couldn’t we do that, Jesus?” ...
- Peter had given up everything to be part of what God was doing.
- He was one of the 12 given authority over sickness and demons, and sent them out with the good news message of the Kingdom.

- Bewildered when Jesus went to his death ... but O his joy at the resurrection ... and then 40 days with Jesus as he taught them about the Kingdom.
- Ten days after Jesus had returned to the Father, Peter - drunk in the power of the Spirit, babbling in tongues and preaching with incredible boldness ... his first sermon – 3000 converts! The Kingdom of God had entered a new phase ... now being manifested through Holy Ghost filled believers.

The towns folk in Lydda made sure Peter and Aeneas met ... they had tried nearly everything else for this son

- “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you” – that statement established beyond doubt the Royal source of Peter’s authority ... but authority by itself doesn’t heal ... it legitimises the power command about to come...
- “Get up and make your bed” ... two commands: the first confronted, contradicted and reversed every diagnosis, every feeling of pain, every opposite action that had attended this man for the last eight years ... it was a power enforcement of God’s order.
- The second, make your bed, was about faith, or, expectation. Peter was inviting Aeneas to a faith action that declared ... **I’m finished with this invalid’s bed forever!**
- The bed became like every other bed in town ... made in anticipation of providing an active person their nightly, refreshing sleep.
- “And he was healed instantly”
- Look at the combination ... (1) Legitimate, God-sourced authority, (2) A command with dunamis/power, (3) Faith from Peter and the paralysed man.

This is not Jesus ... it’s a believer carrying the Kingly authority of Jesus. A human like you and I who is not just in the Kingdom as a subject, but in the Kingdom as one who is reigning with Christ ... and a young man, once paralysed and bed-ridden has his body restored and his future given back to him.