

# **PETER'S TRAVELS**

## **Acts 8:14-25 and 9:32-43**

**We need to accept changes that bring new opportunities for ministry**

### **I. STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH** (8:14-25)

- In Samaria

#### **A. THROUGH RECOGNITION** (14-17)

1. The Background (5, 12, 14)
2. Peter's Ministry (15-17)
  - Praying and laying on hands so that those saved might receive the Holy Spirit
3. The Significance
  - a. Insuring that there would be no Samaritan church distinct from the Jerusalem church
  - b. Affirming that Christians are united by belief in Christ as Savior and reception of the Holy Spirit

#### **B. THROUGH PROTECTION** (18-24)

1. Simon's Situation (9, 13, 18-19)
  - a. A "believer" (9-13)
  - b. A buyer (18-19)
2. Peter's Rebuke (20-23)
  - a. May you perish: God's gifts are not for sale (20)
  - b. Your heart is not right (21)
  - c. You need to repent and seek God's forgiveness (22)
  - d. You are still in the bondage of sin (23)
3. Simon's Answer (24)
  - a. Asking Peter to pray for him
  - b. Refusing to pray for himself

#### **C. THROUGH INVOLVEMENT** (25)

1. Grounding the church in the Word (25a)
2. Growing the church through evangelism (25b)

## II. SERVING THE CHURCHES (9:32-43)

- In Lydda and Joppa

### A. AT LYDDA (9:32-35)

1. Visiting the saints (32)
2. Healing a paralyzed man (33-34)
3. Impacting the community for Christ (35)
  - a. All who lived in the area
  - b. They turned to the Lord

### B. AT JOPPA (36-43)

1. Dorcas has died (36-37)
2. Peter visits (38-39)
3. Peter raised the dead (40-41)
4. Many believe (42)
5. Peter stays (43)

## III. LESSONS FOR THE CHURCH

- Principles to consider

### A. ADAPTATION IS NECESSARY

1. Peter's ministry
  - a. He moved from where he was preaching and defending Christianity in Jerusalem ...  
to an itinerant ministry all around Israel
  - b. He was willing to go where he was sent (8:14)
  - c. He was willing to go when he was invited (9:38-39)
  - d. He was willing to use his gifts as needed (9:34, 40)
  - e. He was willing to be an instrument to help others come to Christ (9:35, 42)
2. Our mandate
  - a. Be flexible
  - b. Be willing to change
    - Things don't always stay the same ...

### B. INCLUSION IS ESSENTIAL

1. Peter's Example
  - a. Minister to the different (8:14-17) > The Samaritans
  - b. Engage the disabled (9:33-34) > The paralyzed man
  - c. Work with the distinguished (9:40-41) > Dorcas was probably wealthy
  - d. Lodge with the despised (9:43) > Simon a tanner
  - e. However don't fellowship with the demonic (8:18-24) > Simon the magician

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2. Our Exhortation

- a. Don't shun those who are not like us
- b. Serve everyone possible

**CONCLUSION:**

**How can God use us?**

- *Are you ready?*

**What do we need to change?**

- *Will you do so?*