

PETER WORKS FOR JESUS

Acts 9:32-43; Matthew 16:13-16.

LESSON 129 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit" (Matthew 7:17).

BIBLE TEXTS

Acts 9:32-43;

32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

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

34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: 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 forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard

that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter 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 shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, 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 Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

Matthew 16:13-16.

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

NOTES

Fishers of Men

Did you ever see a lake that looked very, very blue? In our land there are some bodies of water that look especially blue. In the land across the sea there is a body of water called the Sea of Galilee that is of a beautiful blue colour. In the long, long ago, there was always something of interest happening on or near that sea. Often, perhaps, one could see a great many brightly-coloured boats tossing about on the sun-kissed waves, fishermen washing their nets along the shore, or groups of children playing in the sand.

One day a Man walked along the shore of Galilee — He had a kind, sweet face. You know who the Man was: He was Jesus Christ. He saw the many fishing boats and the fishermen. He called to two brothers, Peter and Andrew, who were casting their nets into the water: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). By this, Jesus meant that Peter and Andrew would no longer catch fish in the Sea of Galilee; they would go out into the cities and villages and find men who needed Jesus, and help them to be saved. Jesus needed some helpers, and He knew that Peter and Andrew would be good workers for Him.

Miracles of Jesus

Immediately, Peter and his brother followed Jesus. They watched their Friend as He went about making people happy. They saw Jesus make sick people well again. If a man could not see, Jesus opened his eyes and let him see. Peter listened as Jesus told many people about His Father in Heaven and His great love for them.

Do we remember the lesson about Peter walking on the water? He and the other disciples were out in a boat one day when a storm arose on the water. As the boat was tossed about on the waves, the disciples suddenly saw Jesus coming toward them, walking on the water. It was Peter who said, “Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.” Jesus said to him, “Come.” So Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water to go to Jesus. But soon he saw the waves around him and became frightened. Just as he was about to sink beneath a big wave he called to Jesus, “Lord, save me.” We all know that Jesus did not let Peter sink, but reached out His hand and held him.

Peter did not doubt that Jesus was the Son of God. One day Jesus asked the disciples, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” Then Peter said, “Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God.”

Do you know what the name “Peter” means? It means rock, and we all know that a rock is firm and solid. Peter had been a true Christian and really loved Jesus. However, one day something happened. He said some words that made Jesus feel very sad. He was untrue to Jesus — his best Friend. But when he saw how much he had hurt Jesus, he was very, very sorry and cried and cried! Jesus forgave him and made Peter happy once more.

Power for Service

Then came the day that Jesus left this world and went to His Father in Heaven. We believe Peter was one of those who stood on the mountain with the people who watched Jesus as He went away. Then Peter did as Jesus told them, and went back to the City of Jerusalem, and prayed in that upstairs room. He preached a sermon to the people there. He was still there praying and waiting when the Holy Ghost came to those in that room on the Day of Pentecost. Now Peter had the power to go out and work for Jesus. He probably said to himself, “Jesus told us to go into all the world and tell people about God’s love. I want to help people as Jesus helped them. I will go and tell about my Friend, Jesus, and about God’s great love.”

So Peter left his home. He went to many towns. He told everyone he met about his Friend, Jesus. He preached to great crowds of people and told them to repent of their sins and be saved. Just think, one day three thousand people were saved in one meeting! People also brought their sick folks to Peter that he might pray for their healing. Some brought sick ones into the streets and laid them on beds and couches so that the shadow of Peter passing by

might fall upon them (Acts 5:15). They had faith that their sick would then be healed; and they were, too.

One day Peter met a man who had been sick in bed for eight years. How very sad his life must have been! Do you know what Peter did? He said to the sick man. "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed." At once the man arose from his sickbed, and was well.

The Dead Raised

Another day Peter prayed for a woman who had died, and she was brought to life again. The woman's name was Dorcas and she had been a very good woman. She had made little coats and garments, perhaps for the poor little children who needed clothes. When Peter went into the room where the dead woman lay, the women were standing around weeping. They showed Peter the little garments Dorcas had made. Peter must have been very sad, too. But he knew that Jesus could make her alive again, for he had seen Jesus heal the sick and even raise the dead. So he knelt down and prayed. Then he told her to arise. He took her by the hand, and lifted her up, and she lived again. He called her friends in to see her. What joy must have filled their hearts to have again this kind woman with them, well and happy. Peter surely used the power he had received when the Holy Ghost came upon him!

A Winner of Souls

When we work for Jesus, we may sometimes meet with trouble. Satan, the wicked one, does not like to have Christians doing good things for God. He tries to stop them. He tried to stop Peter, by causing the wicked king to have Peter put into prison. We shall learn more about this soon, and we shall see that Jesus delivered Peter from prison so he might go on with his good work.

Peter had probably never gone to school — he was a fisherman — but he had a heart that obeyed the voice of Jesus. When Jesus said, "Follow me," he immediately followed Jesus. He worked for Him and became a winner of souls. We, too, can follow Jesus today. If we are saved we want others to hear about Jesus and be made happy. Let us begin today to try to win souls for Jesus. Although we cannot preach like Peter, there are many other ways we may work for Jesus. We can invite children to our Sunday School, and we can tell people about Jesus. We should love Him and live for Him every day.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Peter say to the man sick with palsy? Acts 9:34.
2. Was Dorcas a good woman? Acts 9:36.
3. What had she done? Acts 9:39.
4. Tell what happened to her. Acts 9:37-40.
5. Did Peter know who Jesus was? Matthew 16:16.

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

PETER WORKS FOR JESUS

Lesson 129

Acts 9:32-43; Mathew 16:13-16

MUSIC

A Half Day's Work

WATCH & PRAY 74



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SONG

A Half Day's Work

Don't do a half day's work for the Lord

And expect a whole day's pay;

Only what's done with all of your heart

Counts on the judgement day.

How can you sit idly by, knowing souls are doomed to die?

Don't do a half day's work for the Lord

And expect a whole day's pay.

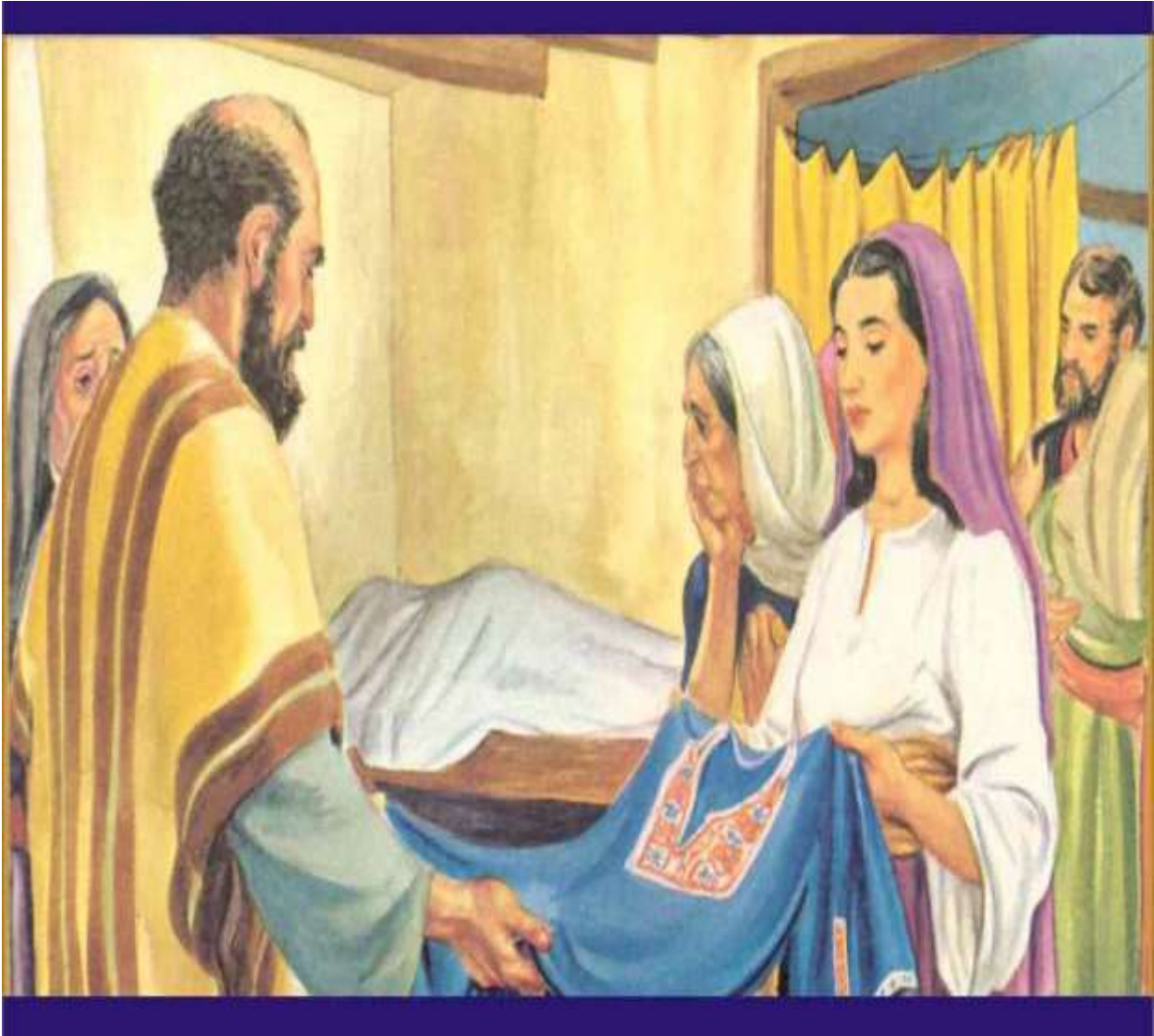
PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

