# ACTS 9:32-43: Week 21

**Following Jesus means becoming more like Jesus. You can't follow Jesus and stand still.**

## ICEBREAKER

What is something you own that carries a story or memory that is much more meaningful to you than its actual value?

## READ

**Acts 9:32-43**

Pay special attention to:

- Acts 9:34: “Jesus Christ heals you.”
- Acts 9:39: The widows showing Peter the robes Dorcas had made.
- Acts 9:40-41: Peter kneeling, praying, taking Tabitha by the hand and helping her up.
- Acts 9:35 and 9:42: The ultimate result was that people turned to the Lord.

## DISCUSS

**1. What stood out to you most from this passage? Why?**

Give people space to respond to the stories of Aeneas and Tabitha before immediately explaining the application.

**2. Peter's actions closely mirror things Jesus did in the Gospels. Why do you think Luke intentionally draws those similarities?**

Peter isn't trying to replace Jesus. He's becoming more like his Rabbi. The manuscript describes discipleship as a process where a disciple increasingly reflects the teaching, habits and mannerisms of their rabbi.

**3. Ps. James says, “Disciples look like their rabbis.” What does that mean practically for someone who follows Jesus?**

Where should Jesus' character, priorities, habits or compassion become more visible in our lives?

**4. What's the difference between believing in Jesus and actually following Jesus?**

Where do you think it's possible for someone to believe in Jesus but remain spiritually stagnant?

**5. Ps. James asks, “Do I look like Jesus? How would others answer?”**

If you asked the people closest to you that question, what might they say?

*Leader note: This isn't meant to create shame. The point of discipleship is transformation over time, not perfection.*

**6. Why do you think we sometimes settle for observing Jesus rather than following Him?**

What keeps people from taking the next step?

**7. Ps. James says, “You can't follow Jesus and stand still.” What is one area of your life where you know Jesus is asking you to move?**

This could involve relationships, forgiveness, serving, generosity, community, Scripture, prayer, sharing faith or simply trusting God.

**8. What does “one step” look like for you this week?**

Make the answer specific and actionable.

## GO DEEPER

Ps. James makes an important distinction between **salvation and discipleship**. Salvation is God's free gift, but following Jesus changes the way we live.

Read **Mark 2:11-12** and compare it with **Acts 9:34-35**.

- What similarities do you notice?
- What does Peter's story reveal about what happens when someone spends their life following Jesus?
- How might your life increasingly point people toward Jesus?

The manuscript's ultimate point is that Peter's life wasn't the destination. **His life pointed beyond himself to Jesus.**

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take a few quiet moments and finish this sentence:

**“The next step Jesus is asking me to take is _____.”**

Then ask:

- What has kept me from taking that step?
- What would obedience look like this week?
- Who could help me take that step?

## PRAYER

Jesus, thank You that our story doesn't end when we believe in You. Help us become people who actually follow You. Show us where we've been standing still and give us the courage to take the next step. Make our lives look more like You so that the people around us don't just see us, but see You through us. Amen.