

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Healing Peter performed his healing ministry solely for the purpose of leading hearts to faith in JESUS, the Son of God.

You may wonder why the miracles of healing and raising from the dead, contained in this Sunday's Epistle, are read during this Resurrection season. The Fathers of the Church point out that in such wonders of restoration, we have a foreshadowing of our own resurrection from the grave.

The lesson from the Acts of the Apostles tells of **TWO** incidents. In the first, Peter the Apostle came to Lydda and there found a paralytic who had been kept to his bed for eight years. Peter said to Aeneas: **"Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and take up your bed."** Sure enough, Aeneas was restored to health and did as commanded.

The 2nd incident is even more glorious. A short distance from Lydda was the village of Joppa, and here lived a pious and charitable woman, Dorcas. She fell ill and died. The Christians washed her body and laid it in the upper room, apparently their place of worship. Having heard that Peter was nearby, they summoned him.

When Peter arrived, the village folk were in tears. The widows and poor showed him the clothes that Dorcas had sewn and given them. The Apostle went to the upper room, knelt down in prayer, felt the power and inspiration of the Spirit, and then spoke to the dead woman **"Tabitha, rise!"** She opened her eyes and sat up. One can only imagine the wonder created by this act.

As these miracles prove, there is **HOPE** in our troubled world. Our faith in Christ has the power to restore, to raise up, to resurrect. As we submit ourselves to Him, as we obey Him, we come into contact with this power of the Lord.