

# Acts 9:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.** The urgent summons demonstrates the church's faith in apostolic authority and expectation of divine intervention through Spirit-filled leadership.

Forasmuch as establishes geographical reasoning—Lydda's proximity (10-12 miles) made urgent appeal feasible. The disciples' awareness of Peter's location suggests communication networks among early Christian communities. They didn't summon randomly but strategically sought apostolic ministry.

Sent...two men follows biblical pattern of paired witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15) and provides mutual support. Desiring him indicates earnest request, not casual invitation. The phrase would not delay conveys urgency—either hope for resurrection if Peter arrived quickly, or need for pastoral comfort to grieving community.

Reformed theology sees this as exercising faith without presumption. They hoped God might work through Peter but didn't demand it. Genuine faith requests boldly while submitting to divine sovereignty. Their action exemplifies balanced faith—trusting God's power while respecting His freedom.

## Historical Context

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The Lydda-Joppa distance allowed same-day travel. News of Aeneas's healing (Acts 9:32-35) had spread quickly, raising expectations about Peter's apostolic authority. The Joppa disciples' request parallels Jairus seeking Jesus for his dying daughter (Mark 5:22-23) and demonstrates early Christianity's high view of apostolic ministry.

Ancient communication relied on messengers—no telephone, telegraph, or instant messaging. Sending two men represented significant investment, indicating community's desperation and faith. This occurred around 38-39 CE, shortly before Cornelius encounter. God was positioning Peter for sequential miraculous events building toward revolutionary Gentile inclusion revelation.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How should Christians balance boldness in prayer with submission to God's sovereign will?
2. What role do church leaders play as instruments of God's power versus wielding inherent authority?
3. In what ways does geographical proximity serve God's providential purposes in ministry?
4. How should desperate circumstances affect the urgency and boldness of our prayers?
5. What does sending paired messengers teach about wisdom in Christian communication and requests?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐγγὺς δὲ οὕσης Λύδδης τῇ Ἰόππῃ οἱ μαθηταὶ  
**was nigh** **And** **forasmuch as** **Lydda** <sup>G3588</sup> **to Joppa** <sup>G3588</sup> **and the disciples**  
G1451 G1161 G5607 G3069 G2445 G3101

ἀκούσαντες ὅτι Πέτρος ἐστὶν ἐν αὐτῶν ἀπέστειλαν  
**had heard** **that** **Peter** **was** **there** **him** **they sent**  
G191 G3754 G4074 G2076 G1722 G846 G649

δύο ἄνδρας πρὸς αὐτῶν παρακαλοῦντες Μὴ ὀκνήσαι  
**two** **men** **unto** **him** **desiring** **not** **delay**  
G1417 G435 G4314 G846 G3870 G3361 G3635

διελθεῖν ἕως αὐτῶν  
**to come** **to** **him**  
G1330 G2193 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 9:36** (Parallel theme): 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.

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