

Women of the Bible:

Tabitha (Dorcas)

First: Start with the facts from each passage:

Second: What would her life have been like at this time

Third: What traits do we discover about her

Fourth: How did God work through this person, even after their mistake(s)

Fifth: What inspiration or lessons can be learned?

Acts 9:36-43

Lessons for Our Lives:

DID YOU NOTICE:

Tabitha—means: gazelle from Greek

Dorcas—means: doe, gazelle from Aramaic

There is a breed of gazelle called the “Dorcas Gazelle”.

Acts 9:36-43

Lived in Joppa. About 25 miles from Lydda (about a days journey). Hebrew and Greek Jews filled the city. Many had become disciples there. It is assumed that it was Tabitha’s house where she was placed in an upper room. This would show that she was a woman of means. No mention is made of her having a husband or family.

Doing Good/helping the poor—Robes and clothing she made for others (widows). These widows (both Jew and Grecian) had found that Tabitha had undertaken the ministry of caring for them. She had put her faith in Jesus into action. The gifts of clothing were not “one time” donations, but by the response of the widows, she had a loving, caring relationship with them.

Sick & died-- It would seem that this was a short illness the quickly resulted in death. They had so come to rely on her ministry, they could not imagine NOT having her. They cared for her body and then sent for Peter to come and help them. They were following her footsteps in putting their faith into action. She had gone out her way to help them in whatever way she could, now they were looking for a way to help her.

Peter called for and raised her from the dead. Tabitha had probably been dead for about 3 days by the time that Peter arrived (her death & preparation of body, notice sent out to believers in Joppa; day to get to Peter, day for them to return). Peters faith in raising her from the dead is rewarded as the Lord indeed raises her. The result was that the believers were encouraged and strengthened, many more came to believe in the Lord. Peter remained in that city for “some time”.