

Dorcas, A Woman of Influence

Acts 9:36-42

INTRODUCTION:

- A. "Scripture teaches that the Mother is crucial to the Family and in the home. The Christian family which we have known is an institution based on the love of one man for one woman, and symbolizes Christ's love for His Bride The Church. Today, the definition of family has been stretched and somewhat distorted." Billy Graham
- B. All that godly motherhood is remains one of the great wonders of mankind.
1. God foresaw the need for them.
 2. God anticipated the warm nature and astute qualities mothers would need.
 3. A good mothers is truly one of the greatest blessings and home can have.
 4. When one sees all the good he believes his mother has to offer, there is always more than he ever imagined.
 5. Husbands . . . Sons and daughters . . . If you will take time to notice that special woman in the home, you will observe some of the best of God's marvelous creation.
- C. Lesson Text: Acts 9:36-42

SOME BIBLE WOMEN WERE SPECIAL WOMEN The Bible is full of stories of women of God who contributed to making this world a better place in which to live and who have helped to advance the Will of God on the earth.

A. MIRIAM

1. After passing of Israel through the Red Sea, it was Miriam who lifted the spirits of the People by leading them in a song of rejoicing.
2. Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea." Exodus 5:21

B. RUTH

1. The Moabitess, Ruth, put God first and as a result became an ancestress of King David and is in the lineage of Christ.
2. Ruth said to her widowed mother-in-law, Naomi, "For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people and your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16

C. DEBORAH

1. Was one of the judges of Israel.
2. Deborah said to Barak: ". . . The Lord will sell Sisera into a woman's hand . . ." And God did just that!

D. QUEEN ESTHER

1. Risked her life to plead for her doomed people.

2. She was successful. She was successful because she tried. She tried because she was a servant of the God of the Israelites.

E. **A WIDOW IN ZAREPHATH**

1. A widow in Zarephath was obedient to God's call and mission in the world and sustained the prophet Elijah.
2. "For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah," 1 Kings 17:16

F. **A WIDOW WITH TWO MITES**

1. In Monetary value she gave a small amount . . . But in faith she gave all that she had into the treasury of the Lord.
2. It did not go unnoticed by our Lord. "Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others." Mark 12:43
3. She put God first . . . And self last.

G. **MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS**

1. Chosen by God to give birth to the King of Kings. She worked with God.
2. "In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" Luke 1:42

H. There is another Bible woman that we want to focus on briefly . . . Many present know her well . . . She is Dorcas (Tabitha) from Joppa (Modern day Tel-Aviv).

1. She is a model of faith for all women.
2. Dorcas means "lovely thing" . . . And her life was indeed lovely.

FOUR WORDS THAT DESCRIBE DORCAS

A. **Disciple**

1. "In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas) . . . " Acts 9:36
2. "Disciple" means "learner." Women who learn the Bible . . . Live the Bible . . . And teach the Bible to their children, will stand among the elite women of the ages.

B. **Visionary**

1. She is described in the Bible as one " . . . Who was always doing good and helping the poor." Acts 9:36
2. She saw the needs around her and endeavored to alleviate those needs.
3. She did not pass by on the other side . . . She did not turn away from the needs around her . . . She did what she could to help those in need of help.

C. **Servant**

1. 'About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!' Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was

taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them." Acts 9:37-39

a. Joppa:

1. A harbor city.
 2. The town into which the cedars of Lebanon had been floated then sent to Jerusalem and use in the construction of the Temple.
 3. The town from which Jonah had departed on his ill-fated voyage toward Tarshish.
 4. The town of one of God's great woman servants . . . Dorcas.
2. She was an obedient servant of God . . . And others.
 3. She was a doer of good works.
 4. Every congregation needs as many Dorcases as it can have . . . Can never have too many.

D. "**Legacy**"

- 1."Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning to the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.' She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord."
3. As a result of her good life, faithfulness, and good works, she was resurrected . . . And as a result of her being resurrected, many people were brought to Christ. What a legacy it is to teach and influence people to obey the Lord!

CONCLUSION:

- A. What a miracle . . . What a sister in Christ . . . What a model for women throughout the ages. I commend what the Bible says about Dorcas to all women for all time.
- B. Dorcas used her abilities to God's glory. Instead of wishing you had other gifts and abilities, make good use of the gifts and abilities God has given you.
- C. All are not disciples . . . All are not visionaries . . . All are not servants . . . But all will leave a legacy of some kind.
 1. Will it be one for good?
 2. Will it be one for evil?
- D. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**