



LADIES OF RENOWN

Living a Life That Speaks Dorcas Acts 9:36-42

Big Idea: A life devoted to serving others leaves a lasting testimony that honors Christ.

I. A Life That Speaks Through Faithful Devotion [Acts 9:36]

Application:

- [1] Your greatest title is not your profession, status, or position – it is “disciple.”
- [2] A life that speaks begins with devotion to Jesus.
- [3] People should see Christ in us before they see our accomplishments.

II. A Life That Speaks Through Compassionate Service [Acts 9:36b-39]

Application:

- [1] Small acts of kindness can have eternal impact
- [2] Ministry is not limited to the stage.
- [3] God uses ordinary acts of compassion to display extraordinary grace.
Some people preach with microphones;
Dorcas preached with needle and thread.

III. A Life That Speaks Beyond Death [Acts 9:40-42]

Application: Live in such a way that your faith outlives you.

Study Question [Challenge and Prayer]

Question: How did Dorcas’s private devotion to Christ become visible through her public acts of compassion, and what does that teach us about genuine discipleship?

Challenge: This week, intentionally serve someone in a practical way without seeking recognition. Ask God to use your kindness as a testimony that points others to Jesus.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you to live a life that clearly reflects Jesus. Teaching you to stay faithful in your devotion to Him, compassionate toward others, and willing to serve wherever there is a need, using your words, actions, and attitude to point people to His grace each day.

[Acts 9:36] Now there was in Joppa [Joshua 19:46] a disciple [she is the only woman in the New Testament explicitly given the title of disciple] named Tabitha [Aramaic], which, translated, means Dorcas [Greek] [Chaldean Origin: “gazelle” (an animal with large bright eyes)] She was full of good works and acts of charity. [1 Timothy 2:10]

[John 13:35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

[Galatians 2:20] I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

[Acts 9:36b-39a] She was full of good works and acts of charity. [1 Timothy 2:10] ³⁷ In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. [9:39, 1:13, 20:8] ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Please come to us without delay.” ³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. [9:37]

[James 1:27] Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

[Matthew 5:16] . . . let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

[Galatians 6:10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

[Acts 9:40-42] But Peter put them all outside, [Matthew 9:25] and knelt down and prayed; [7:60] and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” [Mark 5:41, John 11:43] And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up.

Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. [John 11:45, 12:11]

[Philippians 1:21] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

[2 Corinthians 4:7-11] But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.