



## Acts 9:36-43

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 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!”

39 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.

40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

## Review 9:36-43.

- In Joppa, a coastal city about 10-12 miles from Lydda, there was a disciple named Tabitha (also called Dorcas). She was well-known for her good works and acts of charity, especially helping widows. Tabitha became seriously ill and died. Her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.
- The disciples in Joppa, deeply distressed by her death—especially the widows she had cared for—sent urgently for Peter, who was in nearby Lydda.
- ❖ Why did the widows send for Peter?
- When Peter arrived, he was brought to the upper room, sent everyone out, prayed, and said to her, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes and sat up. Peter then presented her alive to the believers.
- News of this miracle spread throughout Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed some time in Joppa with Simon the tanner.
- This demonstrates how one faithful life can deeply affect a vulnerable community, leaving both grief and expectation for God’s intervention.

## **Practical Application: Serving Others Like Tabitha**

- ❖ Who in my life right now has a practical need, and what specific action will I take this week to show them God's love?
- ❖ What skill, talent, or resource has God given me that I can intentionally use to serve others more consistently, like Tabitha did?

## Acts 10:1-8

### Cornelius Calls for Peter

**10** At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!”

<sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked.

The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

<sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. <sup>8</sup> He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

## Review 10:1-8.

- Here, we meet Cornelius and see a description of the type of man he was, both professionally and spiritually. Luke speaks very highly of Cornelius.
- ❖ What do we know about Cornelius's spiritual practices?
  - Cornelius was a man who "feared God." While this meant he was respected by the Jews and even held similar traditions, there was still a unique distinction between Cornelius and the Jewish believers. A Gentile (non-Jew) who feared God was not considered a converted believer until he was circumcised. And even if he was a circumcised Gentile, he still couldn't associate with the Jews because of one simple thing: He was a Gentile. That is, until the revelation that happens in today's passage.
- ❖ What specific instructions did Cornelius receive from an angel in **10:5**?
  - Despite knowing little about Peter or the message he was to bring to them, Cornelius immediately obeyed and sent for Peter-a man he never met.
- ❖ What does the Bible say about obedience to God, beyond this one verse?

## **Acts 10:9-16**

### **Peter's Vision**

9 About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. 12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. 13 Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

14 "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

15 The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

16 This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

## Review 10:9-16.

- While Peter was praying, God used something out of the ordinary to speak to him: a *trance*. A trance is a spiritual state of deep concentration or altered consciousness, often caused by the Holy Spirit.  
<https://biblehub.com/greek/1611.htm>
- This word may sound odd or confusing to us when we try to imagine what happened. But for Peter, God was using the moment to paint a clearer picture.
- ❖ What command did the voice from heaven make each time Peter refused to eat what was unclean? What was the reason?
- Peter was greatly concerned about the command from God. He even refused to obey. The repetition alone tells us God was trying to drive home a point that Peter was not getting.
- He seemed to be more focused on his squeaky-clean record (literally) than seeing what God was trying to show him.
- ❖ What was the meaning of the sheet with the four corners in Peter's vision, and why did God show it to him?