

Lesson 11 - May 15

Acts of the Apostles in the Early Church

BOLD



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
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PreciousHeart.net/SS
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Early Church to Antioch

1. Mar 6	Entrusted	1:1-26	wait for gift
2. Mar 13	Empowered	2:1-15	Pentecost
3. Mar 20	Unified	2:41-47	Fellowship, Pray, Bread, giving
4. Mar 17	Resurrected!	Luke 24:1-12	Easter Evangelistic Emphasis
5. Apr 3	Courageous	3:1 – 4:31	Peter and John Bold
6. Apr 10	Integrity	4:32 – 5:16	Ananias & Sapphira
7. Apr 17	Faithful	5:17-42	Peter arrested, Gamaliel
8. Apr 24	Selfless	6:1 – 8:3	seven chosen & Stephen
9. May 1	Obedient	8:4-40	Angel, Phillip, Candace
10. May 8	Converted	9:1-31	Paul blinded, then sees

11. May 15 Bold 10:1 – 11:30 Peter raises Tabitha

12. May 22	Accepting	10:1 – 11:30	Peter's vision— <i>EAT</i>
13. May 29	Extraordinary	12:1-25	Peter freed from prison



Alternate Title for Lesson

All Prophets Testify to Christ



Bold

10:9-15 **The Vision** – heaven open ... sheet down ... *EAT!*

> **10:16-42** – Spirit informs, Cornelius' men stay night
set out, meets Cornelius ... hears gospel from Peter

10:43 **The Declaration** – Prophets testify ... forgiveness

10:44-46 **The Sign** – Spirit came down – Gentile Pentecost

10:46-48 **The Acceptance** – Baptized in the Jesus Christ

10:43 – All the prophets testify ... everyone who
believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins.



prelude

You know where we are going ... Peter raises Tabitha from the dead

ü Never done that before ... greater concern than when he stepped out onto the water ... perhaps his greatest prayer

ü Much healing in Acts ... Luke a good historian ... still left a lot out ... and never mentioned a failure of healing

ü Tabitha was a widow and endearing disciple SERVING widows whose reputation preceded her

ü Peter's greatest miracle ... raising of the dead is greatest of all

ü Perhaps his most nervous ... and his most remembered



Key Doctrine – God

God is all powerful and all knowing.



Baptist Faith and Message (1963) – FBCWoodville.com/beliefs/

II. God. There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. **God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures.** To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and

**not in 1963 but is in
2000 *Baptist Faith and Message***

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.



9:32 **“Final” Rest – Disciple Tabitha doing good**

9:31 ... after conversion of Paul, peace in the land

9:32 – As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord’s people who lived in Lydda.

“traveled about the country”

to what? ... “visit the Lord’s people”

Let’s get our timecard stamped



9:36-37 “Final” Rest – Disciple Tabitha doing good

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

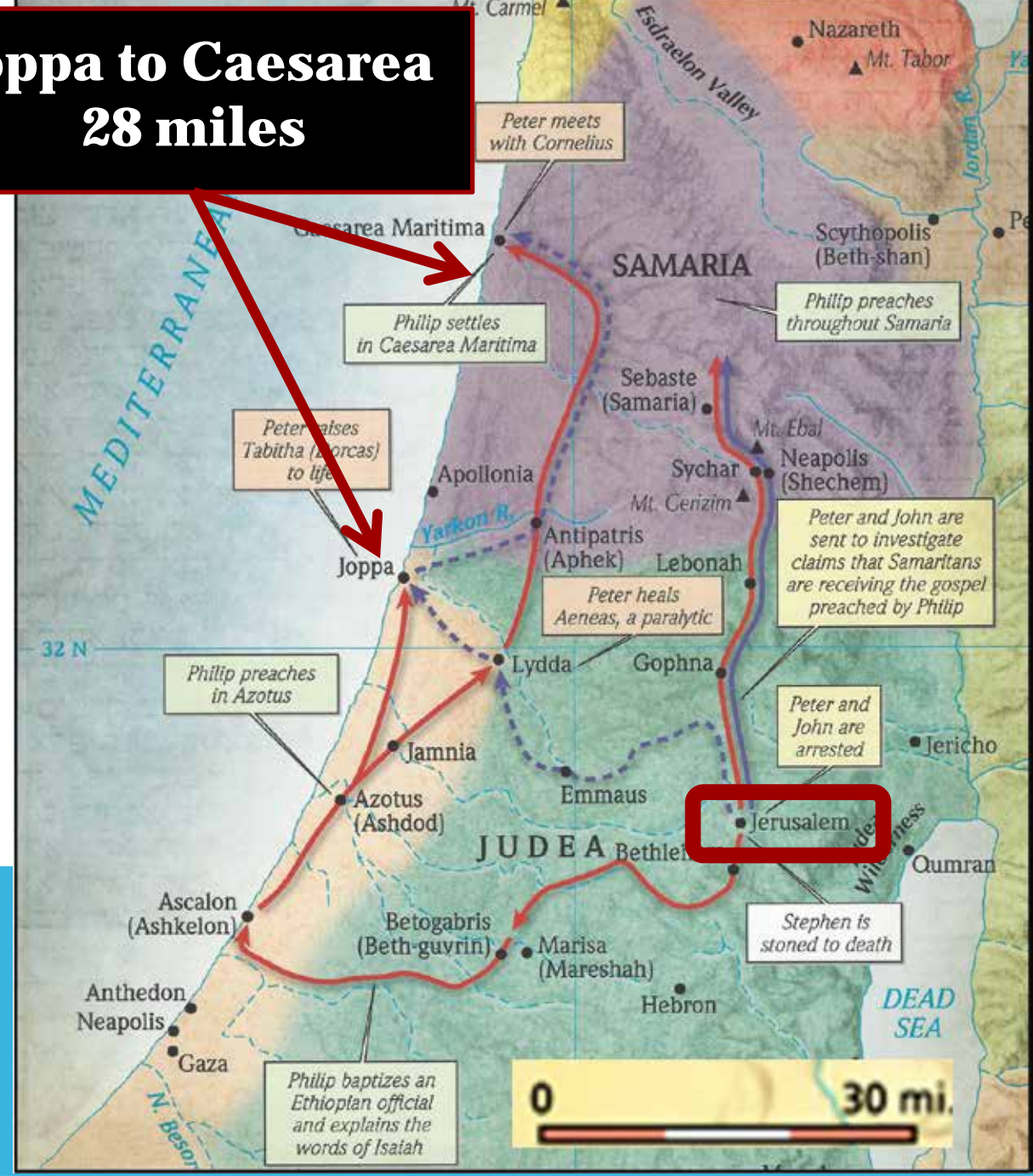
Come now—
fine reputation
that is



Caesarea Maritima

- ü 25-13 BC - Herod the Great
- ü Some say Japheth, son of Noah
- ü Hellenist to *Iopeia*, or Cassiopeia mother of Andromeda.
- ü Pliny the Elder, linked Joppa to daughter of Aeolus, god of wind

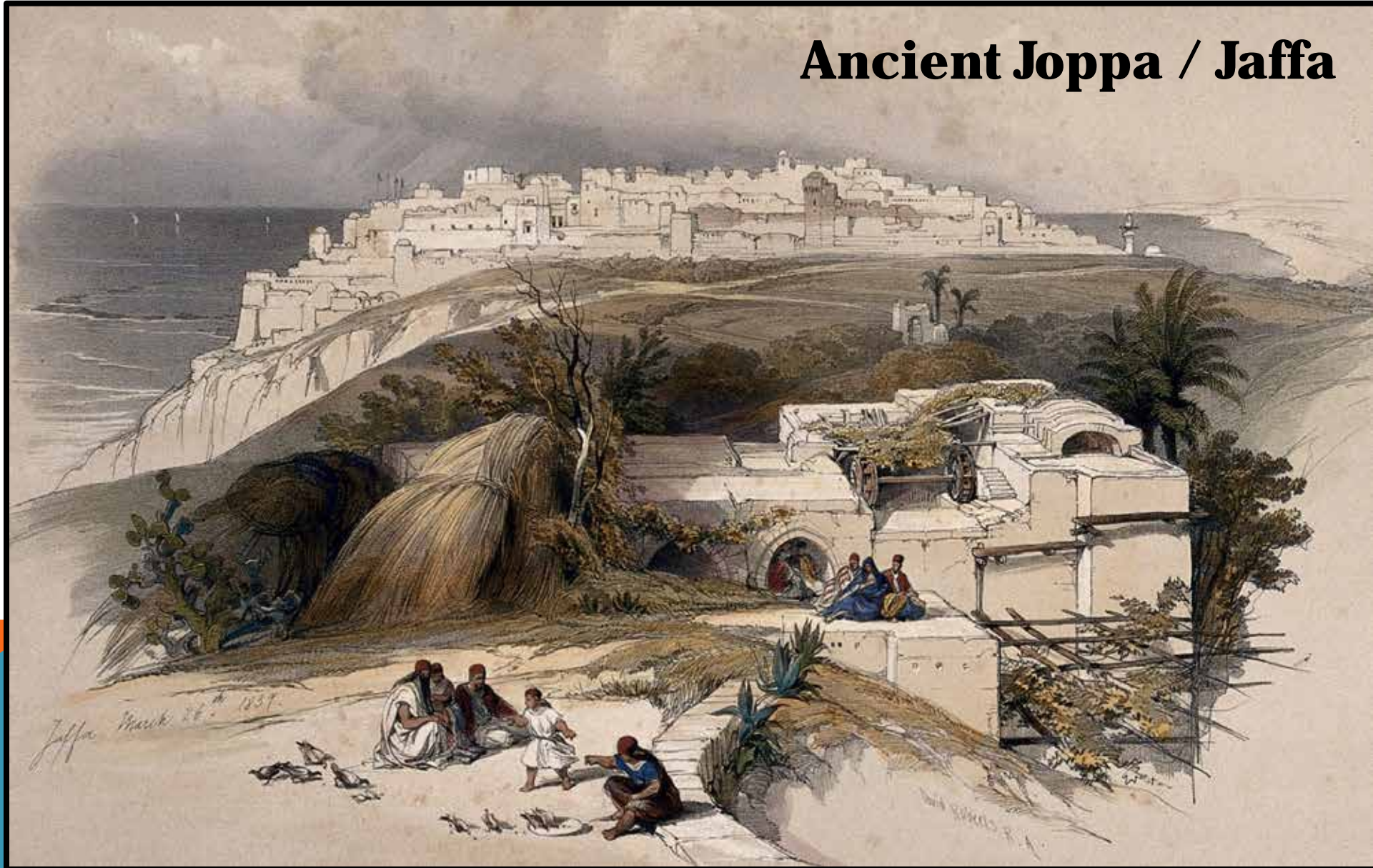
Joppa to Caesarea
28 miles



Joppa

Ancient Port City NOT as sophisticated as Caesarea 30 north

Ancient Joppa / Jaffa



9:36-37 “Final” Rest – Disciple Tabitha doing good

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

**An inspiration behind
Women’s International Ladies’ Garment Union
founded 1900 ... once one of largest unions
started by mostly Jewish women**



9:36-37 “Final” Rest – Disciple Tabitha doing good

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.

**Her Ministry is Cut Short
Who’s Going to Fill Her Shoes?**



9:36-37 “Final” Rest – Disciple Tabitha doing good

Death and Hope

Who’s Going to Fill Her Shoes?

No, not for Dorcas ... no one can

The widows missed HER, their Gazelle

most of all ... her sweet kindly ways

her utter respect for them ... the poor

**widows were often
the “least of these”**



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

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!”



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

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.



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. A woman was lying there, covered with a quilt, and she was crying and showing him other clothing that Dorcas had made and was still with them.



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. A around him, crying and showing other clothing that Dorcas had made and was still with them.



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. He sat around him, crying and asking for other clothing that he had left still with them.



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

39 Peter went with them to the house. When he arrived he was taken upstairs and laid on the bed. He had only one blanket around him, and they put it around him. He was still with them.



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

James 1:27 says:

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble

After a LONG pointed explanation in 2:14-26



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Faith without Works is Dead

**few exemplified this like
Disciple Tabitha ...**



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

³⁹ widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Tabitha's Faith Revealed in her Love

Often ... when someone we love dies

Our pain ... tears ... heart throbbing

reflection of love for the departed

we HURT as we Love



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

³⁹ widows stood around him, crying and showing ...

Memorials of Her Love

Cloth that Warmed Their Hearts

Robes, Quilts, Jackets, CLOTHING, more

Widows ... precious in God's site

Do you know a widow?



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

**widows stood around him
crying and showing ...**

Oh ... they *MISSED* their Gazelle

**How they wished, begged, wept
that God **NOT TAKE** Tabitha**

Of ALL people, don't take HER



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

We grow by degrees ... bit by bit

Good people grow on us ...

Love grows and matures ...



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for ... Peter came

We grow by degrees ... bit by bit

Good people grow on us ...

Love grows and matures ...

**Of *ALL* people, how those poor
widows begged and prayed**

***NOT* their Tabitha**



9:38-39 Request – Peter sent for

We grow by degrees ... bit by bit

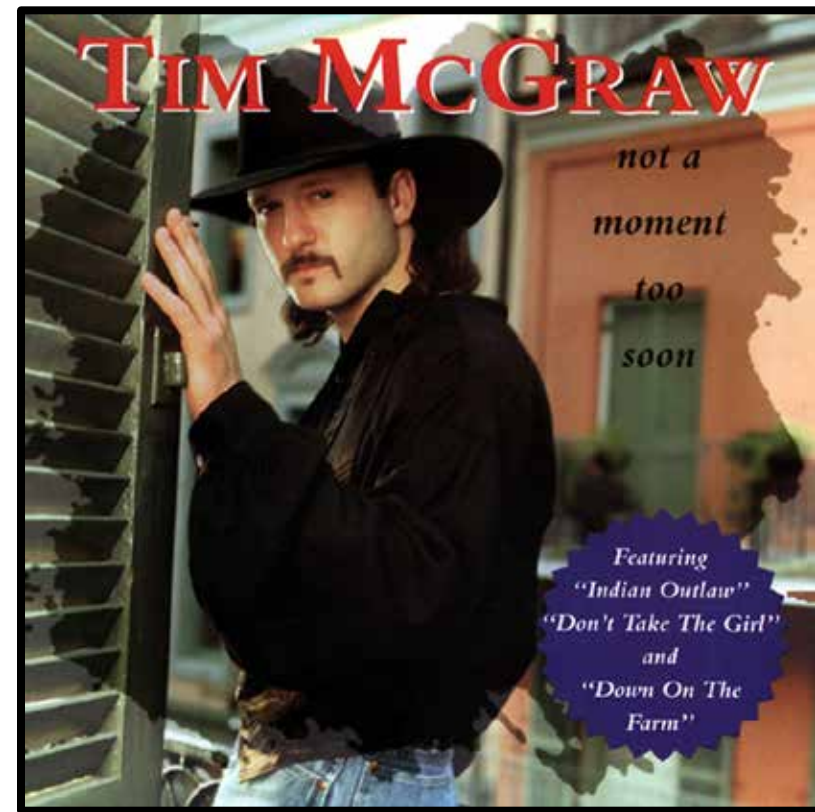
Good people grow on us ...

Love grows and matures ...

**Of *ALL* people, how those poor
widows begged and prayed**

***NOT* their Tabitha**

Tim McGraw captures this well in



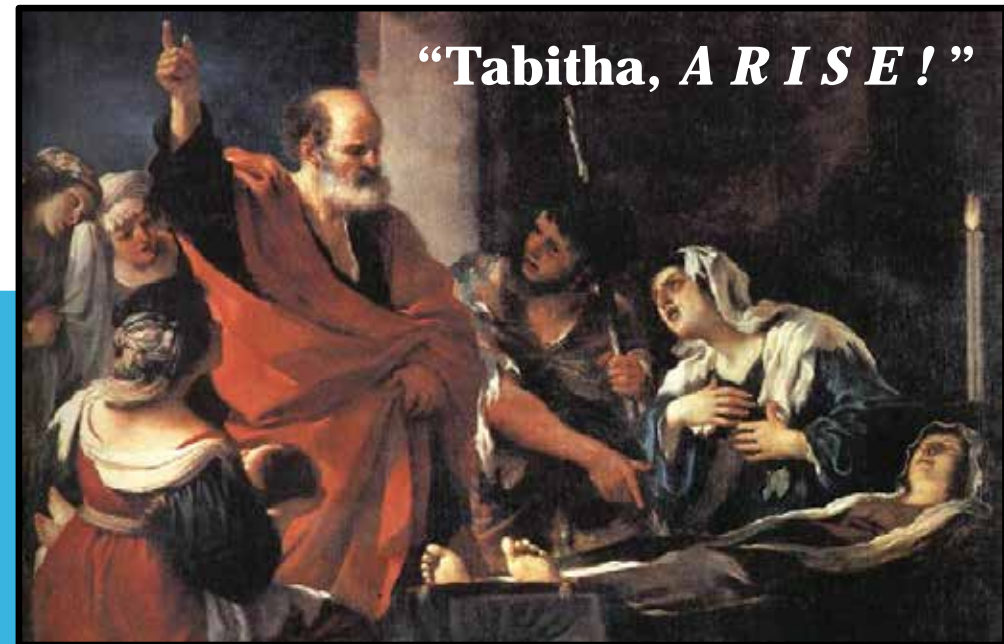
“Don’t Take the Girl”



9:40-41 Restoration – Peter prayed – “Tabitha, *A R I S E!*”
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, *A R I S E!*”
She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.



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She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.
41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.
he called for the believers,
especially the widows,
presented her to them alive.



9:40-41 Restoration – Peter prayed – “Tabitha, *ARISE!*”

**41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.
Then he called for the believers,**

Did you see the rest of that verse?



9:40-41 Restoration – Peter prayed – “Tabitha, *ARISE!*”

41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers,

Did you see the rest of that verse?

**especially the widows,
and presented her, *their gazelle*, to them alive.**



Why did Peter do that?



9:40-41 Restoration – Peter prayed – “Tabitha, *ARISE!*”

Why did Peter do that?



9:40-41 Restoration – Peter prayed – “Tabitha, *ARISE!*”

Why did Peter do that?

**lot of people died in the last 10 years
one thing’s for certain ... absolutely certain**

No has ... No one else will ... **NO ONE**

Would take care of poor widows

like Disciple Tabitha

no one ... and few have



9:42-43 Results – known through Joppa – many believed

42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

so many believed because

Peter raised sweet Tabitha from the dead

What a SHAME ... and shame on them

**They SHOULD have believed
because of the LIVING FAITH
of Tabitha and HELPED her**



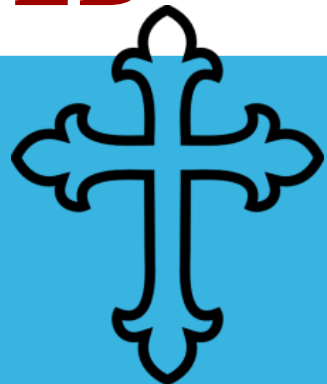
9:42-43 Results – known through Joppa – many believed

⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Know what is ALSO absolutely certain?

- ü Only ones raised from the dead are truly those of Great Faith Doing Good Works**
- ü Tabitha got more help ... her tribe increased**
- ü Poor SAW their Tabitha Raised and BELIEVED**

believed before ... but NOW they BELIEVED wholeheartedly



9:42-43 Results - known through Joppa - many believed

Grand Benefits of Great Faith Doing Good Works



9:42-43 Results – known through Joppa – many believed

**Grand Benefits of
Great Faith Doing Good Works**

**might raise you, too
from the dead**

might



9:42-43 Results – known through Joppa – many believed

With Tabitha Returned— Poor Widows' FAITH Rose Higher

⁴³ Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

***In the next chapter Peter has a vision that unites
but he is staying with an unclean tanner
God preparing him for next journey ...***





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*May we continue
To do good works*