

**The Kingdom of Give - Living in creative goodness**

- The next three teachings will talk about **what we do between salvation and the second coming**. Our salvation is assured. What do we do **as we go** in between?
- Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me so I send you" (that God's eternal house will be full) John 20:21 We give as freely as we have received." (we give what we have received from the Lord) Matthew 10:8 • We bring the resurrection life of Jesus to the world we live in.
- Todd Hunter puts it—"We are the cooperative friends of Jesus—Living in creative goodness—for the sake of others - through the power of the Holy Spirit." (Christianity Beyond Belief)

**MOW A LAWN FOR THE SUMMER (or something like that).**

What I have in mind relating to the study on TABITHA is that we would do acts of kindness that would not only endear us to the church but also the community around us.

- Last summer five of us mowed the grass for neighbor (an older single lady on oxygen) down the street from the church. In the process we got to know her. Prayed for her. One of our team cleaned her house and would bring a bag of donuts along for coffee and talk. We received a small check from her at Easter time thanking us.
- I hope that each team or groups in the church will find some creative way to be good to our neighbors this summer.

**Overview Acts 9:36-42**

**1-V36** There was a believer in Joppa named \_\_\_\_\_ which means "gazelle" She was always doing \_\_\_\_\_ things for others and helping the \_\_\_\_\_.

**2-V37-38** She got sick and died. The Christian community there did two things. -1- They prepared her body for \_\_\_\_\_ -2- And they sent for \_\_\_\_\_ that perhaps God might do a miracle through him. Peter was willing to come.

**3-V39** The room where her body lay was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ who were \_\_\_\_\_ for the loss of this dear person who had let her light shine and done so many good things including making clothing for them. In their grief they were holding and showing the clothing she had made.

**4-V40** Peter following the example of the Lord when he raised Jairus' daughter asked the folks in the room who to leave. Their faith was overwhelmed by death and grief. Then he knelt by her bed and said, "\_\_\_\_\_ Tabitha. " She opened her \_\_\_\_\_ and seeing Peter she \_\_\_\_\_ up. He took her \_\_\_\_\_ and helped her up--- called all the \_\_\_\_\_ and showed that she was \_\_\_\_\_.

**5-V42** The result of this miracle showing the Good News about Jesus was that many \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord

**Word Study BELIEVER • WIDOW • GET UP • KIND • BELIEVED • LEAVE**

**1.V 36** \_\_\_\_\_ The Greek word is MATHATRIA which means disciple. A disciple is the student of a teacher. However, the teacher of a disciple is not only imparting knowledge but also taking the students out to put in practice the teaching. In fact, the students imitate the life style of the teacher. Jesus said to his disciples, " I have given you an

example to follow. Do as I have done to you.' John 13:15 Paul said, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ."

It is evident that Tabitha was more than a believer or church goer. She followed the example of Christ. The word discipline means being trained or training oneself to do what Jesus did.

**2.V 36** \_\_\_\_\_ " Having a generous, warm, compassionate nature. Showing generosity or compassion. Not harsh, unpleasant, or likely to have destructive effects. Showing courtesy or caring about somebody." Tabitha's kindness moved her to do kind things—practical and helpful things. " Faith without works is dead." James 2:17

• "Since you excel in so many ways...I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving. I am not saying you must do it, even though the other churches are eager to do it. This is one way to prove your love is real. You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich." 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

**3.V 39** \_\_\_\_\_ A woman whose husband has died. Worse yet a woman whose husband has died and she has no grown sons to provide for her. These are most vulnerable and helpless among us—especially in a third world country where there is no safety net for widows, orphans, the poor, the victims of catastrophes. James, the brother of the Lord, says, " Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us." James 1:27

**4.V40** \_\_\_\_\_ Peter asked the grieving folks to leave because death had created an atmosphere of unbelief in God( for whom all things are possible.) Peter was following the example of Jesus when he raised Jairus' daughter. Messengers said to Jairus, " Your daughter is dead. There's no used troubling the teacher now. Jesus ignored their comments and said to Jairus, ' Don't be afraid. Just trust me." Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn't let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John. ...The crowds laughed at him..." Jesus took her by the hand—called her by name and raised her to life. Mark 35-43

**5.V40** \_\_\_\_\_ There are three resurrections – three " get ups", if you will. -1- When the Father spoke "get up" over the dead body of Christ. -2- The second coming when Jesus will speak " get up" and create a glorified body for us. -3- When Jesus said to "receive the Holy Spirit" to the disciples after his resurrection. It caused their spirits to come alive. In these days between Jesus resurrection and ours we speak " get up" —speak resurrection life over the world as we go. It involves (1) sacrificial acts of kindness (2) Prayers of healing and deliverance from evil (3) Talking to people—listening- perhaps having an encouraging ( prophetic) word for them— or telling our Jesus' story.

**6.V 42** \_\_\_\_\_ These people believed – that is, they came to Christ --- because they heard the Good News about Jesus and saw the powers of the Kingdom demonstrated before their eyes. Jesus sent out the 12 apostles and later 72 disciples to tell everyone about the coming of the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick." Luke 9:1-2

**What does this Scripture say to you?**

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**ACTS 9:36-42 Study (NLT) "TABITHA " April 26, 2009 • Vineyard Church • Great Falls • Montana**

"Let your light so shine before men that they will see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Life in the first Christian community --an inspiration for us.

" Everyone around was in awe--all those wonders and signs done through the apostles!

And all the believers lived in wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved." Acts 2:43-47 Message