

Acts 9:32-43 (Advance Part 5) Encouragement to Mothers and Others

Today is mother's day:

A) I believe godly mothers are the super heroes of our day!

B) Moms wear so many hats

C) 88% of laundry is done by women, totaling 390 loads of laundry and 5,300 articles of clothing a year.

1) That is about 7.5 loads per week

D) Recent study showed that without mothers, most laundry, particularly men's, would not get washed

1) until it smelled worse than an egg salad sandwich that had been sitting in the sun for five days.

Moms Change the most Diapers.

A) A Mother averages 7,300 diaper changes by the baby's 2nd birthday!

B) Moms are always on call - The average pre-Schooler requires his or her mother's attention every four minutes! About 210 times a day

C) Mom's I am not sure if our families could survive without you.

1) Video - What do all day - today I decided not...

Years ago on our Ladies retreats weekends

A) Those Sundays were our lowest attended services of the year!

B) Many of the men in the church - men were not even going to try to get their kids here for church on Sunday.

C) Those who did - Kids in PJ's - Kids mismatched socks - plaids with stripes

1) Hats to cover bed head

D) Have to say - I am thankful the men have grown out of that

Chuck Swindoll story: Wife in the Hospital for a surgery - she left him very precise meal instructions.

A) The next morning - Chuck asked his 3 kids - who wants to go out to eat today for breakfast?

YAY DAD

B) This was his idea of Breakfast out - Local 7-11 white powdered donuts and Slurpee-

1) Eating out part was sitting on the curb -

C) His kids thought it was the best breakfast ever!!!!

D) I hope you tell your moms and your wife - how much you appreciate her -

1) not just today - but regularly.

E) Thankful for my moms impact - support - example

Mother's day and Father's day are becoming difficult holidays for many in the church and in our culture to celebrate.

A) The reason: As our society has become more and more broken -

B) People have become more and more selfish

1) The result of that has been this:

C) More and more people have been hurt, let down and even abandoned by their parents

D) I meet people all the time in our church - who have that as a part of their story -

1) My parents were not there - not good examples.

E) Messy Divorce: didn't know what to do with me

Now for many that has motivated them to be very present in the lives of their own kids

A) But they are still carrying the wounds from their messed up childhood as adults

B) Well today in Acts 9:32-43 we are going to focus our attention on a woman in whom we are not sure if she was a literal mother

C) But she is a woman who was a mother-like person to many in her church family -

1) the woman with two names Tabitha and - Dorcas

The title of my message today is an Encouragement to Mothers and Others.

32 Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. 33 There he found a certain man named Aneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. 35 So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. 36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

Last week we started Acts ch. 9 and we looked at the first half of the story of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus.

A)Next week we are going to look at the 2nd half of his conversion story

B)But here at the end of Acts ch 9 - We have the story of a woman by the name of Tabitha also called Dorcas

C)She was a woman that the Lord inspired Luke who is writing the book of Acts

1)to devote an entire paragraph to tell her story

D)She was a woman who made a tremendous impact upon her church family

1)She is a woman - who's life can speak volumes to all of us.

Now vs.32-35 are what we would call Transitional verses -

A)Luke is moving from the story of Saul of Tarsus to Peter's story.

B)We saw last week how the Lord told Saul of Tarsus

1)he was going to be used to bring the gospel to the gentiles

C)But we will see in chapter 10 that the ministry of bringing the gospel to the gentiles

1)actually officially started with Peter

D)Luke tells us here of how Peter ended up in Lydda heals this man that was paralyzed -

1)and many believed

What happened in Lydda will lead to the Lord getting Peter to Joppa

A)where Ch. 10 he will be summoned to go and share the gospel with a Roman... Cornelius

B)So The story of Tabitha is the Bridge for this work - that God is going to do through Peter and Paul throughout the gentile world

36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41 Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. 43 So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

So here we have the story of Peter bringing Tabitha back to life.

A)I want to note 4 things we can learn from her life today

B)#1 Consider her city: 36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas.

C)The first things we learn about Tabitha is that she lived in Joppa.

D)Joppa was the major port city of Israel -

1)a city located on the Mediterranean coast about 30 miles west of Jerusalem.

Goods from other parts of the world were shipped there regularly

A) And as a result, many people from many different parts of the world walked along its streets.

B) Because it was a busy shipping center,
1) Joppa was a good place from which to spread the Gospel to the gentile world.

C) The story of Tabitha being raised from the dead would be a launching pad for the gospel to spread to many other places.

#2 Consider her names

A) Two names - In Aramaic, her name was Tabitha;

B) but in Greek, her name was Dorcas. (Name for a baby girl - Dorcas - NO!)

C) Both names - Tabitha and Dorcas - meant the same thing: Gazelle.

D) Gazelles were symbolic of exquisite beauty in Bible times.

King Solomon who wrote SOS loved was great at affirming his wife's beauty

A) Men listen it is important to compliment your wife on her appearance - to affirm her -

B) if you don't someone else will

C) Solomon was good at that - Great example for us men -

1) We can definitely learn from his example in SOS

D) But don't try and use his lines - they don't translate to today.

Examples: Your teeth is like a flock of sheep that have just been shorn and washed.

A) Translate: Nice smile and you sure have white teeth - nicely brushed

B) Another place: Your stomach is like a round goblet - like a heap of wheat -

1) Listen men: You don't want to use the words round or heap in describing your wife's stomach = ok

C) On two different occasions he said this to his wife: **your breast are like twin fawns of A Gazelle that graze among the lilies**

D) Retreat - how do you approach twin fawns carefully

E) Seriously - Gazelles were symbolic of exquisite beauty.

Gazelles are also used in Proverbs as a symbol of grace

A) King David used the term to describe the swiftness of his army - Swift as gazelles on the mountains

B) So Tabitha's name, brought to mind the images of grace, beauty, and swiftness in a time of need.

C) Although her name was given to her at birth -
1) to those who knew her it was a perfect fit of the type of woman she was.

D) Today we might say she was beautiful on the inside and the outside.

#3 Consider her faith - V.36 She was a Disciple of Jesus Christ

A) Recall we read back in Acts 8 that a great persecution came upon the church -

B) the church was scattered.

1) But we were also told that those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the gospel.

C) Undoubtedly someone came to Joppa - And that is probably how Tabitha came to faith in Jesus

1) She was a disciple who was fully committed to Jesus

D) She is a woman who has a great reputation among her church family.

1) Because she displayed her love and devotion to Jesus and the church in some very practical ways

#4 Consider Her Impact V.36 This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

A) "Good works" is a phrase that speaks of general acts of kindness to people.

B) But "charitable deeds" is more specific, and has to do particularly with acts of mercy that relieve the burdens of the poor and needy.

C) We will see the nature of those good works and charitable deeds in a minute

1)but first notice the next thing we are told about - her
- She dies

V. 37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them.

This is interesting: We are told that, according to the custom of the Jewish people, they washed her body in preparation for burial.

A)Picture the loving tenderness with which the believers in Joppa cared for this precious "mother-type"?

B)But as they prepared her body in the traditional way for burial, they didn't immediately bury her.

1)Instead, we're told that "they laid her in an upper room."

C)They weren't ready to let go of her yet - and when they heard that Peter was in nearby Lydda -

1)And he had just healed a man who had been paralyzed 8 years -

D)They said go and get Peter and bring him - maybe just maybe Life?

V.39 When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Don't miss the significance of this scene:

A)Here at the bedside of Tabitha, we do not find a sorrowing husband.

B)There are no children weeping for a lost mother. There are no parents to mourn their daughter.

C)There are only the widows of the church, gathered at her side.

1)They loved her

It is here that we see the nature of her good works and charitable deeds can be seen in verse 39; it is there that we read And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.

A)I suspect they were "showing" them by the fact that they were wearing them.

B)Here we see Tabitha's motherly impact: In Jewish culture when a woman became a widow -

1)there were no pension plans - no Social Security
There was not a welfare system

C)In Jewish culture it was up to the family to take care of a widow

But the problem with many of the widows in the early church is this:

A)When they turned to Jesus - they were turning from Judaism

B)So many of them were ostracized and abandoned by their families

C)Because in their minds they were abandoning the Jewish faith

D)So it became the responsibility of the church to
1)take care of the widows who had no family member to take care of them

E)In a very real sense - the church became their family

That is where Tabitha saw an opportunity to use one of her gifts -

A)I will make coats for the widows - keep warm in the cold winters

B)Such a simple act of love and Kindness - made a Huge impact on her church family.

C)Don't miss this church - a whole paragraph in the Bible is devoted to this woman who used her gift to bless others

D)Reminds us that God takes note of the littlest things we do for others

1)MOMS take comfort in that

All of us think for a minute: What gift or talent do you have where you can be a blessing to others.

A)Cook ?- clean? Crafts?

B)Fixing things - Mechanic

C) Want to bless others? Make yourself available to the Lord and watch what He does.

Tabitha's gift is sewing - ok I will make coats - Widows blessed

A) Her impact was so great and so greatly appreciated that when she died -

B) They called for Peter - see if the Lord might use Peter to bring her back to life

C) Think: When the Apostle James died - they didn't do that - We have 11 more apostles -

1) We don't need another sermon.

D) Tabitha dies - there is no one like her - Go get Peter!!!!

How do you want to be remembered?

A) Celebration of life services - Sharing - sometimes it is really powerful

B) I wish I knew that person better - Amazing impact

C) Other times really sad - hardly anyone wants to share - and you can tell the ones who do are trying really hard to say something nice

D) How do you want to be remembered?

E) When it came to Tabitha - the believers in Joppa thought: We can't lose her yet?

1) So they go and get Peter - he shows up - people are mourning

40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41 Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. **Wow imagine that**

I wonder if Tabitha was a little miffed - She was in Heaven - Why did you bring me back?

A) Listen If I die - don't pray that the Lord resurrects me ok

B) But seriously God had a purpose in this:

42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. 43 So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

C) God used Tabitha's life and gift to impact many in her church family

D) And the Lord used her death and Resurrection to impact many with the gospel in Joppa 1) and throughout the world.

E) You will never know - how big of an impact a life lived for Jesus will have on others.

As we close today: Two things to those here who are followers of Jesus

A) Then one final thing to those who you are not.

B) First to those of you who are believers - Are you using your gifts for Jesus

C) Are you allowing the Lord to use you in blessings your church family.

D) Now maybe your response to that question would be - I am not sure what my gifts are - what I have to offer.

Quickly turn to Romans 12 - Paul is using an analogy of how the church is like the Human body

A) One body - many members or parts - all useful all important - V.3

Aa) Mom's how many of these gifts to you use in a week ministering to your family.

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

No one is more important than anyone else - all needed and connected

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members **do not have the same function**,⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it in our ministering*; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Now Paul divides these giftings into two categories

A) Those that Expound the Word

- Those that Expand the work.

B) Four listed in those that Expound the Word

1) Prophecy: Prophecy in the NT is more **forth telling** that Fore telling

C) In the OT the ministry of the Prophets was mostly fore telling - predicting future events

1) But in the NT it is more Forth-telling or simply speaking forth or declaring the word of God

Prophecy means to cause to shine forth - so it is causing the word of God to shine forth in preaching.

A) Prophecy expounds on the word of God by declaring truth.

- Prophecy is the gift of preaching

B) Then he mentions the word Ministry - Ministry depicts truth.

1) The gift of ministry is the same as the gift of helps Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 12

C) The person with the gift of ministry or the gift of helps depicts the truth of God's word

1) and God's love by being a servant

D) Their lives are a living illustration of the truths of God's word

1) Tabitha had that gift. - Depicting the truth by loving others making coats for them

Then Paul mentions the gift of teaching

A) Prophecy Declares truth - Ministry Depicts truth - Teaching: Defines truth

B) The Pastor teacher who takes his church chapter by chapter verse by verse through the pages of the word of God

1) Give sense to the scriptures

C) Paul exhorted Desire the best gifts ???- The Best gift is the one for the need of the moment

1) Today for me - Prophecy and teaching -

D) Yesterday I was here to help the crew RESET the Sanctuary after the women's event was over

1) They Didn't need a sermon - didn't want a sermon - Move chairs - set

E) Helps or Ministry was the best gift for that moment.

1) 22 people so far Registered to be on one of our Reset teams - looking for 18 more people

2) Awesome to think - Simple act of service - you are using a spiritual gift that God has given you.

Then Paul mentions the word Exhortation:

A) The Person with the Gift of exhortation is one who is able to Develop truth

B) The word exhort in the Greek is the word Parakaleo

1) which is the root word for the word that Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit as the Helper

C) Parakletos = One called alongside to help.

D) That is what the person with the gift of exhortation does -

1) they come along side others to help them develop in their walks

E) One on one discipleship - How the truth of God's word is developed and lived out in everyday life

1) Barnabas in the Life of Paul

So those four gifts all Help Expound the Word

A) But then Paul mentions 3 gifts that help Expand the work

B) Giving: Give financially to expand the work of God - spiritual gift

C) Gift of leadership - he who leads - 1 Corinthians 12 the gift of **administrations**

D) Those who are gifted in putting together systems and processes to help things flow and come together

1) Gifted in Organization

Then he mentions the gift mercy - compassion

A) The gift of mercy is getting into someone else's skin to feel their pain - Empathy

B) Gift of being able to listen to others and feel their pain

C) So which of those gifts do you have? Not sure ?

D)Test: How do you respond when a situation arises?

Example Josiah analogy - what would be your reaction?

A)What a klutz! Who let that kid in here? - Not saved - no gifts

B)Prophecy: Preaching moment " Watch your step ,many pitfalls in life to trip you up- watch out

C)Teaching: Teaching moment When carry glass wipe condensation / right amount of pressure w/ each hand!

D)Ministry "Where is the broom and mop? Help clean this up.

Giving "How much was that glass ? Write a check"

A)Exhorter - " Come on Josiah you can do this lets go & get another glass I will walk beside you this time.

B)Leadership or Admin." Who designed these steps that way - too steep we should correct that so this doesn't happen again."

C)Mercy "Come here buddy / I know just how you feel I Did the same thing in the 3rd grade."

That is how the body of Christ has been put together - many different people different gifts -

A)ALL responding in different ways - all are necessary and important to the Situation

B)What would be your response? The way that you tend to respond to a situation or need

1)Can be an indication of the gift or gifts that God has given you.

C)So my first word to those of you who are believers is what is your gift or gifts?

1)Are you using them? Why or why not?

2nd Word for believers is this: - Tabitha died and was raised to life - that is a rare occurrence.

A)But as believers we have hope in death ¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

B)When a person who knows Jesus dies - they go to heaven - **Absent from this body is to be present with the Lord - HOPE**

C)PETER: Born again to a Living Hope through the Resurrection of Jesus ... dead

D)Jesus to Martha after Laz died

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25

A believer in Jesus never experiences true death!

A)True death is to be separated from God for eternity.

B)All sinned and fallen short of the glory of God - Sin has separated us from God!

C)Dead in our trespasses and sin -

1) Our sin has left us separated from God - and to die in our sin - Separated forever = Hell is

D)Weeping and gnashing of teeth - But Jesus said: ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

That question divides mankind into two categories - those who believe and those who don't believe -

A)Those who have Hope and no Hope!!

B)As believers we have this Hope - breath our last breath here: next breath in heaven - Glory

C)Do you have that assurance

For those who don't believe - You are dead

A)But Jesus is in the business of bringing dead things to life.

B)Your life today: Jesus died for sin - Rose life

C)Open your heart to him today. - Best mother's day gift