

The Life of the Apostle Peter
Study # 37
Ministry in Sharon: Part II
A Crisis in the Life of a Precious Believer
(Acts 9:36-43)

Introduction

I. The Disciple (9:36-39)

A. Her Character (36)

1. She Was a Christian (Philip. 3:7-8)
2. She Was Creative (Ecc. 9:10; Jn. 15:8; Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:10; Tit. 3:8)

Tabitha was a great doer, no great talker: (*Matthew Henry*)

3. She Was Charitable (Job 31:19-20; James 2:15-17)

B. Her Crisis (37a)

1. Sickness (Jn. 9:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:20)
2. Death (Ecc. 7:15; Mt. 1:20-21; Mk. 10:25; Jn. 14:1-3)

QUOTE: Life is 100% fatal!

C. Her Companions (37b-39)

1. Their Duty (37b; Gen. 46:4)
2. Their Delay (37c; Gen. 23:1-4; Ps. 41:1)

NOTES:

3. Their Dispatch (38)

4. Their Demonstration (39)

- a. The Widows (Acts 6:1; Mk. 12:41-44; Lk. 7:11-15; 1 Tim. 5:3)
- b. The Weeping
- c. The Work (Pr. 31:19-20, 30-31)

- In many ways, Tabitha is a NT model of the ideal woman in Proverbs 31.

JOPPA (beautiful) – an ancient seaport city on the Mediterranean Sea, about 56 kilometers (35 miles) northwest of Jerusalem.

A walled city, Joppa was built about 35 meters (116 feet) high on a rocky ledge overlooking the Mediterranean. It supposedly received its name “beautiful” from the sunlight that its buildings reflected.

The first mention of Joppa in the Bible indicates it was part of the territory inherited by the tribe of Dan (Josh. 19:46; Japho, KJV). The only natural harbor on the Mediterranean between Egypt and Acco, it was the seaport for the city of Jerusalem and the site of significant shipping in both Old and New Testament times. Rafts of cedar logs from the forests of Lebanon were floated from Tyre and Sidon to Joppa and then transported overland to Jerusalem to be used in building Solomon’s temple (2 Chr. 2:16).

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary



ΑΩ

Tabitha - A name of Aramaic origin meaning *a female gazelle*.

Dorcas - An alternative name for Tabitha, this is a name of Greek origin meaning *gazelle*. A gazelle is an antelope, a plant-eating, herding animal which is able to run at high speeds for extended periods of time.

coats and garments - tunics (outer garments) and inner garments.

II. The Deliverance (9:39a; 40-42)

A. The Response of Peter(39a)

B. The Requests of Peter (40A&B)

1. To the Friends (40A)
2. To the Father (40B)

C. The Resurrection of Tabitha (40C-41; 2 Tim. 4:20; Num. 19:11)

APPLY! We go, we pray, we talk, God brings sinners to life!

D. The Results of the Miracle (41B-42)

1. To Her Companions (41B; John 20:27-29)
2. To Her Community (42; 2:43,47; 4:4; 5:12,14; 8:6; 9:35)

III. Epilogue (43)

Conclusion

Lessons from Tabitha

- Ordinary believers can have a tremendous impact on their church and on their circle of believers.
- Those to whom life had brought misfortune (Tabitha and the other widows) can still live a fulfilled life if they will turn it to service.
- We learn that little gifts over time can improve the quality of life for others.
- We learn that if we will die to self and resign our lives to God's will be can be a tremendous testimony to a lost world.
- Are we looking to meet the needs of those around us?
- Are you making enough contribution to someone's life that they will mourn your death?
- One more lesson, not related to Tabitha, but to the widows: Stop talking and start working.

Lessons from Peter

- We need to learn to obey the Lord immediately and completely.
- We learn the lesson of God's blessings when we obey.
- We learn the power of prayer.
- We learn that we are completely and utterly dependent upon God to resurrect sinful men!
- We learn that there are traditions that we need to let go of.
- To what traditions are you clinging?

A **gazelle** is an antelope of the genus *Gazella*. Gazelles are known as swift animals; they are able to reach high speeds for long periods of time. Gazelles are mostly found in the grasslands and savannas of Africa, but they are also found in southwest Asia. They tend to live in herds and will eat less coarse, easily digestible plants and leaves.

Three species—the Red Gazelle, the Arabian Gazelle, and the Queen of Sheba's Gazelle—are extinct. All other gazelle species are listed as endangered, to varying degrees.

A recognizable example of the gazelle is Thomson's Gazelle (*Gazella thomsonii*), which is around 60 to 90 cm (23 to 35 inches) in height at the shoulder and is coloured brown and white with a distinguishing black stripe (as in the picture on the right). The males have long, often curved, horns. Tommies, as they are familiarly called, exhibit a distinctive behaviour of stotting (running slowly and jumping high before fleeing) when they are threatened by predators such as lions or cheetahs. *Wikipedia.com, accessed November 14, 2007.*

