

## A Woman Who Makes a Difference (Acts 9:36-42)

Happy Mother's Day! And in honor of Mother's Day, I've got a few things for you, courtesy of the Internet. Little Billy's mom was rubbing moisturizing cream on her face as Billy walked in. "Mommy, what are you doing?" he asked. "I'm putting cold cream on my face," she replied. "Why, Mommy?" Billy asked. "To make my skin look beautiful," she said. When she started wiping the cold cream off her face with a tissue, Billy said, "Gosh, Mom, you're giving up already?"

Mother to daughter advice: Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day. But teach a man to fish and you get rid of him for the whole weekend.

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."

And my last one from the internet. One day a little boy was talking to his Momma, asking her some

questions. Momma, you say the Easter Bunny brings us candy and eggs? Yes. And the tooth fairy brings us money for our teeth? Yes. And Santa Claus brings us presents? Yes. And the Lord gives us our daily Bread? Yes. Well, what do we need Daddy for?

I hope you enjoyed our humorous trip on the Internet. Now, since this is a day we're thinking about mothers and women, I want us to take a look at a woman who made a difference.

For some of us, we have the opportunity to see our mothers today and honor them in person. For others, Mom may be miles away, but we still think about what she means to us. And for others, we only have their memories left. But those memories are full of the love they showed us.

So, today is a good day to think about our mothers. As we think about our mothers today, and other women who have touched our lives, I want you to

consider something. Consider the difference they've made in

A Woman Who Makes a Difference  
3 of 9

page

your lives. Think about all they've done to make your life better by being there. Think about the miles they've put on the car to get you to your activities. Think about the sleep they've sacrificed to watch you. Think about all the differences they've made in your life.

And mothers, think about the person you are today. You are the one person who has the most influence on your children, and other children, as well. There is no one more important to the family than the mother. You have the position and ability to make a huge difference in your family's life. In fact, you are making a difference in your family right now.

What I want you to think about this morning is what kind of difference are you making? Is the difference you're making a positive difference? Is the difference you're making going to change the lives

that you influence for good? Is the difference you're making an eternal difference? Will your family and others want to

A Woman Who Makes a Difference  
4 of 9

page

know Jesus because of your influence?

Our Scripture reading today tells us about a woman who made a difference. Her name as Tabitha or Dorcas. Tabitha was a woman who made a difference. She lived in the town of Joppa. We have only these seven verses that tell us about Tabitha. And only two or three verses tell us about the actual life of Tabitha. But God had these preserved so that we might read them today. He preserved them so that we can learn the qualities of a woman who made a difference. For our women here today, and men, let's let this Scripture teach us how we can make a difference.

Look at **verse 36**, "Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, when translated, means Dorcas." The first thing we learn about

Tabitha is she is a disciple—a disciple of Jesus Christ. This is the only time the word “disciple” is used for a woman in the Bible, so Tabitha was a special woman.

A Woman Who Makes a Difference  
5 of 9

page

So, what does it mean to be a disciple? It means to be a follower of someone. It paints the picture of binding yourself, tying yourself, to someone else. It means to sit at the feet of someone else to fellowship and learn. It is total attachment to someone.

What does being a disciple mean in relation to being a disciple of Jesus? It means the disciple unconditionally sacrifices their whole life to Jesus. It means to be bound to Jesus and do God’s will. It means to abandon your old life to live for Christ.

So, the very first thing the Bible tells us about Tabitha is that she was a disciple. This was an important point Luke, the writer of Acts, wanted to

make. And it's a very important point that God, who inspired the Bible, wants to make.

Women who make a difference belong to Jesus. True disciples belong to Jesus. Women, if you want to make a difference, Jesus first has to make a difference to you. He has to be your Lord and Savior. Being a

A Woman Who Makes a Difference  
of 9

page 6

disciple has to do with building God's kingdom, which is an eternal kingdom. You may be making a difference in people's lives today, but you won't make any eternal difference without Jesus.

Now, let's look at the second half of **verse 36**, "who was always doing good and helping the poor." The call to be a disciple always includes a call to service. A disciple serves God and they serve others. Tabitha's life was marked by a life of continually serving others. She was known for her charity and making clothes for widows.

Tabitha was always doing good. She was constantly looking and think of ways she could help others. That's what's unique about a woman who makes a difference. They're not looking for recognition, they're looking for need. And anyone looking for people in need will always find them.

Women who make a difference put others ahead of themselves. This takes a special person to do this.

A Woman Who Makes a Difference page  
7 of 9

This takes a person who humbly acknowledges they're who they are only by the grace of God.

Women who make a difference serve God. They can do without all the accolades of people. They don't mind working in the shadows of others. Their life's goal is to serve God. Their idea of success is to bring honor and glory to their Savior. A woman who makes a difference, lives to make a difference in the lives of others.

Women who make a difference, make a mark on lives around them. When Tabitha died, it was a

great blow to the church, especially the widows, which was her ministry. When Peter arrived, they showed him all that Tabitha had done. They were a living testimony of Tabitha's life. Tabitha had left her mark on the lives of many.

After she died, Peter prayed over her body and said, "Tabitha, arise," at which she opened her eyes and sat up, demonstrating a notable miracle in the early

A Woman Who Makes a Difference  
of 9

page 8

church. This event is significant in the New Testament, as it is the first recorded instance of an apostle (other than Jesus), raising someone from the dead, demonstrating that the power to perform miracles was granted to Peter.

Women, what mark are you going to leave? You can leave a mark on your husband. The Bible says your Godly life can lead your husband to salvation.

You can leave your mark on your children. You can teach them about Jesus, you can give them a Godly example, and you can lead them to Jesus Christ.

By the way, you can leave your mark on other children. There are so many children who have no Godly influence, even at home. Your children's friends are there for you to leave your mark.

You can leave your mark on your church. God has placed you in this church to serve others. You won't know your total potential in Christ until you're involved in serving others in the body of Christ.

A Woman Who Makes a Difference page  
9 of 9

You can leave your mark on the world. A woman following Jesus has no limit to what she can do.

God is looking for some women who are looking to make a difference. Are you willing to step up? Do you want to leave your mark on this world for Jesus? Make a difference. God is waiting on you.

Please bow your heads as I pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the account of Tabitha, a woman devoted to good works and acts of charity. Lord, empower us to be like

Tabitha—generous, kind, and devoted to helping the poor. May our lives be a reflection of your love, bringing tangible help to those in need. Strengthen our faith to trust that you can raise up what has fallen. Help us to know that no situation is too far gone for your power. We ask this in the name of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**