

Some thought on the case of the woman with 2 names.

Read Acts 9:6-43

Dorcas or Tabitha. It matters little. But it is quite funny that the woman who Peter raises from the dead should be acknowledged in Acts 9 as having two names when, in some respects, she has two lives! Dorcas (or Tabitha) is given the opportunity to continue to serve God and serve people – I wonder if she decided to do even more after Peter held her hand as her eyes re-opened? I wonder if she looked at the world in an even better way than before and was all the more determined to make every moment count, taking every opportunity to make a positive difference with people around her.

I also wonder how familiar she would have been with the words of Jesus about letting our light shine before others and our deeds glorifying God? Seems to me that these words abided with her and inspired her. Both with Dorcas and with ourselves, it seems that to be authentic disciples of Jesus, we need to have a healthy mix of things like service and worship coming “naturally” and being something we are intentional about. In both respects, I would say that the Holy Spirit enables us.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

13 *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

14 *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Prayers

Loving Lord

By your Spirit,
help me to serve you, to worship you

help me to...

...have the faith of Peter.

...pray like Peter prays.

...learn from Jesus like Peter learned.

...use my gifts like Dorcas did

...help people in need like Dorcas did

...follow Jesus like Dorcas did

...be willing to help others like both Peter and Dorcas did

...and help me to be more and more the person you say I am.

Amen.

Gracious God

We thank you and praise you for your amazing resurrection power.

We pray that you would comfort those who are mourning now.

We pray you would help us trust in you, always, even in these faith-shaking times.

We pray for healing for all who are suffering now, for all who are weighed down by sadness.

We pray for wisdom for all who hold power.

We pray for peace and justice, for hope and for joy.

We pray for your Kingdom to come more and more into view.

Amen.