



Serve With Love

"We are all pencils in the hand of a writing God, who is sending love letters to the world." (Mother Teresa)

There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!" So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive. The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord. (Acts 9:36-42 NLT)

Serving with love involves personal involvement.

- Dorcas did not look at people/needs around her and sit back and say, "I sure hope that someone takes care of these folks."
- She was willing to move past concern or good intentions and roll up her sleeves and actually help those around her.
- The people she helped were the people in front of her, who were part of her daily life.

Serving with love involves a willingness to sacrifice.

- It cost Dorcas to serve others.
- She lived an interruptible life.
- She was willing to inconvenience herself to help others when the need arose.

Serving with love has a lasting impact on the lives of others.

- Look at the impact that this one woman had on her church and her community.
- You can learn a lot about how a person lived from the people who show up for their funeral.
- Dorcas marked her community through willingness to serve others.
- *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10 NIV*