

Doing Justice

ACTS 9:36 – 42 (AMP) ³⁶Now in ^[j]Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, (which translated into Greek means Dorcas). She was rich in acts of kindness and charity which she continually did. ³⁷During that time it happened that she became sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upstairs room. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Come to us without delay.” ³⁹So Peter got up [at once] and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upstairs room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing [him] all the ^[t]tunics and robes that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. ⁴⁰But Peter sent them all out [of the room] and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise!” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹And he gave her his hand and helped her up; and then he called in the ^[k]saints (God’s people) and the widows, and he presented her [to them] alive. ⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord [that is, to adhere to and trust in and rely on Jesus as Christ and Savior].

ACTS can also be called the “ACTS of the HOLY SPIRIT” because it teaches about the coming and the work of the Holy Spirit.

What the book of ACTS teaches:

- The message of the early church
- How the Jews rejected this message and how God sent the apostles to the Gentiles, who accepted the Gospel
- How the early church was treated by the local and Roman governments.

I - A face for Justice

Tabitha aka Dorcas – gazelle / beautiful / grace. The name Tabitha is Aramaic (Hebrew); The name Dorcas is Greek. She was a seamstress who had been exemplary in her care for the poor and for widows and other good works during her life.

Dorcas was the only woman to be named as a disciple.

Acts 9:36 (NKJV) - At Joppa there was a **certain disciple** named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas.

Certain indicates **one among some**.

- Her ministry focused on action and service amongst the impoverished and the orphans of the city.

- Her life points to God's active concern and care for needy individuals who have been marginalized, forgotten, left out, and overlooked. cast down or discarded.
- She was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

The amplified Bible said she was rich in acts of kindness and charity which she continually did.

Continually means to adhere to closely; to persevere; to be earnest toward a thing; to be constantly diligent. She was ALWAYS ethical.

II – Justice is for all

Justice is relational. God set the standards for justice. It is both vertical and horizontal.

NKJV Psalm 33:4-5 For the word of the LORD *is* right, And all His work *is done* in truth. ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

RSV Psalm 82:3 - Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute,

NKJV Isaiah 1:17 - Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and plead for the widow.

Revenge and Justice are not the same thing

NIV Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “**It is mine to avenge; I will repay,**” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

III - In God we serve

Many believed in the Lord on account of her story – she draws them to Christ – not herself.

Dorcas and Peter were instruments of God; not drawing people to themselves but to the LORD!

NIV Acts 9:42 This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord [that is, to adhere to and trust in and rely on Jesus as Christ and Savior.}

Micah 6:6-8 – NIV ⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what

is good. And what does the LORD require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.**

- This is what sensible people do
- This is how society operates smoothly
- This is how to show the outside world what God is doing on the inside of us

The B.R.E.A.D. Organization is comprised of many different congregations, who in turn represent many different traditions. Each of our congregations believes something different—about the nature of God and the name of God. But each of us shares a commitment **to pursue justice guided by our faith**—to finding, in the things that we share, the strength that unity can bring.

Victory Ministries Center of Hope Statistics

2023

- **FOOD: 8,244 families: 25,717 individuals: Over 350,000 meals distributed**
- **CLOTHING: 3,345 families; 13,020 individuals**
- **PRAYER: 1,012 individuals**

As of April 2024

- **FOOD: 768 families: 2,408 individuals: 34,695 meals distributed**
- **CLOTHING: 375 families: 1,530 individuals**
- **PRAYER: 94 individuals**

**Our annual Nehemiah Action will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:40 pm – 8:30 pm
at the Celeste Center Ohio State Fairgrounds**

Let's help to stop predatory landlords and protect renters now!

*Rhema Christian Center
Jacqueline Baylor, Minister
Saturday, May 18, 2024
9:30 am*