



AUTUMN
DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS
Carstairs-Bancroft United Church
October 26, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

USE WHAT YOU HAVE FOR CHRIST

[Tabitha] was always doing good and helping the poor.

Acts 9:36

READ Acts 9:36-43

Ever heard of The Sewing Hall of Fame? Established in 2001, it recognizes people that have made "a lasting impact on the home sewing industry with unique and innovative contributions through sewing education and product development." It includes individuals like Martha Pullen, inducted into the hall in 2005, who is described as "a Proverbs 31 woman who . . . never failed to publicly acknowledge the source of her strength, inspiration, and blessings."

The Sewing Hall of Fame is a twenty-first-century invention, but had it been around during the first century in Israel, a woman named Tabitha might have been a lock for induction. Tabitha was a believer in Jesus and a seamstress who spent time sewing for poor widows in her community (Acts 9:36, 39). After she became ill and died, disciples sent for Peter to see if God would work a miracle through him. When he arrived, weeping widows showed him robes and other clothing that Tabitha had made for them (v. 39). These clothes were evidence of her "always doing good" for the poor in her city (v. 36). By God's power, Tabitha was restored to life.

God calls and equips us to use our skills to meet needs that are present in our community and world. Let's release our skills into the service of Jesus and see how He'll use our acts of love to stitch hearts and lives together (Ephesians 4:16).

By Marvin Williams

PRAY & REFLECT

Dear Jesus, please help me to respond with love and compassion to the needs of others. Amen

What talents and abilities has God given you? How can you use them to help people in need?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Jesus commanded His disciples to be His "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Because of persecution, the believers "were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria" (8:1). Philip went to Samaria to preach the gospel (vv. 4-5) as well as Peter and John (v. 14). Luke highlighted Peter's ministry in Lydda and Joppa (Acts 9:32-43), commercial towns with large numbers of gentiles. After raising Dorcas from the dead, Peter stayed in Joppa "for some time" (v. 43). While praying, he saw a vision of unclean animals (10:9-16), reiterating that "God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of . . . receiving eternal life" (11:18 nlt). It was from Joppa that Jonah sailed for Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh to tell gentiles about God (Jonah 1:3). It's significant that from Joppa, God now calls Peter to proclaim the good news to the gentiles (Acts 10:24-48). – By **K. T. Sim**

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