

Life-Giving Legacy

January 7, 2018

I. How To Leave A Life-Giving Legacy

Acts 9:36-42 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Step 1. Do Good

Acts 9:36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

A. We are not saved by doing good things.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

- We are saved by grace through faith.

B. When we are saved, we will do good things.

- Doing good doesn't just happen. Doing good is a deliberate action.

1. What you do is important.

Psalms 37:3-4 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

- Doing good is important to God.
- Doing good today affects your life tomorrow.

- Your actions echo.

2. What you do not do is important.

James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

- There are sins of commission and sins of omission.

Matthew 25:45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

- ❖ Your responses ripple.
- ❖ What is left undone will eventually come undone.
- Consistency counts.
 - ❖ Your character is determined by your consistency.

Step 2. Make A Difference

A. *Your influence outlasts you.*

Acts 9:38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

1. **Your legacy is based on what you do today.**
2. **You are leaving a legacy where you are.**
3. **It is never too late to leave a legacy.**

B. *Your influence impacts others.*

Acts 9:39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Acts 9:41-42 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

1. **Your actions create a memory. Your relationships create a legacy.**

2. Who you are will outlive what you do.

3. Don't just be different. Make a difference

Step 3. Have Faith

Acts 9:36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

A. Your legacy is defined by what matters most to you.

Acts 9:40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.

Luke 8:51-55 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

B. Your greatest legacy will be your faith.