

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson Nine: Power of Acceptance (to encourage)

Review last week on the ministry of encouragement

Passages we will focus on: **Acts 9:36-42**

Context

Dorcas, Greek translation of the Hebrew name, *Tabitha*, a woman whose death caused a crisis.

She was an instrument of grace and a channel of blessing through her works of kindness and charity . She was greatly needed and greatly loved.

In discussion groups, more on this fleshed out -

Next - **Romans 15: 1-13**, especially v. 4-7

Context - Jewish and Gentile factions

- Exhortations (based on Rom. 13-14)
- Importance of the Scriptures, v. 4
- Prayer for success of Scriptures in the life of the church, v. 5-6 -
- Another exhortation - KEY for us today - v. 7
- Then Old Testament proofs of God's plan all along - Eph. 2:14-16

Significant that Paul brings it from Psalms, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah- all of the Scripture celebrating God's plan for the world

Argument in essence is: if God has so planned and united those so different in Christ's love, why can we not be accepting and united in love for one another?

For you , on your own, -

These verses are given us so that we would see how the qualities we admire in Dorcas, that bring unity to the church, are essentially rooted in God's kindness in Christ. In other words, because of the Redemption accomplished by Christ and applied to us by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 4:32

Prov. 31:20-21, 26-28 - the woman who fears the Lord

Rom. 2:4

Gal. 5:22 - the fruit of God's Spirit

Col. 3:12

I Pet. 2:3

II Pet. 1:7 -

Break for discussion groups.

Next week: If you have the book, begin reading Chapter 10 entitled " The Cornerstone of Forgiveness". To even begin to do this justice, we will take 2 weeks.

Lesson Nine Discussion Questions

- In our local church, what would a modern day daughter of Dorcas look like? Think and brainstorm first. (**Discussion leader** may find I Tim. 5:5,9 ff helpful or even Susan Hunt's "imaginings" of p. 163-165)
- What has contributed in our culture to there being a breakdown in relationships between women and thus an increase in the need for supportive networks for women in the church?
- (If needed, **discussion leader** can read comment quoted from p. 166 in the green copy of Spiritual Mothering.)
- Examine your "acceptance attitude". Do you communicate loving acceptance to other women, younger or older or same age? Are you approachable?
- Perhaps, there is someone now you have difficulty accepting.
- Brainstorm some individuals or group in your church that may feel unaccepted.
- What do you think is the most foundational take-away from this chapter on acceptance?
- **Discussion leaders:** Golden Rule - do unto others what you would have them do unto you. Stated another way, treat others the way God in Christ has treated you!
- Have you in mercy been received, accepted by God? Therefore, you should do likewise, especially to the church of God. Why? It glorifies God! Brings unity.