

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Dorcas, A Woman Of Good Works

International Sunday School Lesson
For August 22, 1948

Golden Text: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."—Matthew 25:40.

Lesson Text: Acts 9:36-42

Because of the severe persecution of the followers of Jesus in and around Jerusalem, they were scattered abroad throughout the surrounding territory. At the time of our lesson for this week, the Apostle Peter was in Lydda, where he was busy preaching the gospel. There he found a man, named Aeneas, who had the palsy and could not walk and Peter in the name of Jesus, made him well again.

Of course, the news of the healing of this man spread abroad, even to the town of Joppa. In Joppa there lived a good woman, named Dorcas, whom everybody loved. She was called "The Gazelle", probably because of her beauty and grace, like that of a deer. Her name in Hebrew was Tabitha and in Greek, Dorcas.

The record tells us that this good woman was a believer in Christ and like her Lord, she loved to do good works—to help the poor by her gifts of garments made by her own hands.

While Peter was at Lydda, Dorcas fell ill and died. Her friends laid her body in an upper room and then they sent two men to Lydda to Peter, begging him to come to them without delay. Peter consented and when he came to the house, he found it overflowing with widows and poor women, who were weeping and showing the garments which Dorcas had made for them.

Sending them all from the room, Peter knelt down and prayed to God. Then he called, "Tabitha, arise". The woman opened her eyes and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Peter took her by the hand and raised her up and then called her friends into the room to show them Dorcas alive and well. The news of this wonderful work amazed all the people of Joppa and, as a result, many were led to believe in Christ. Peter stayed in Joppa for many days, residing at the house of Simon, the tanner.

We do not know the social position or the financial condition of Dorcas. We only know that she dedicated what she had to the service of her Lord. What greater praise for service could come to any of us than the praise given by Jesus to the woman who rendered a service to him, when he said, "She hath done what she could." Do you do what you can best do for Jesus? So many people, because they cannot do spectacular things, fail to do anything for Him.

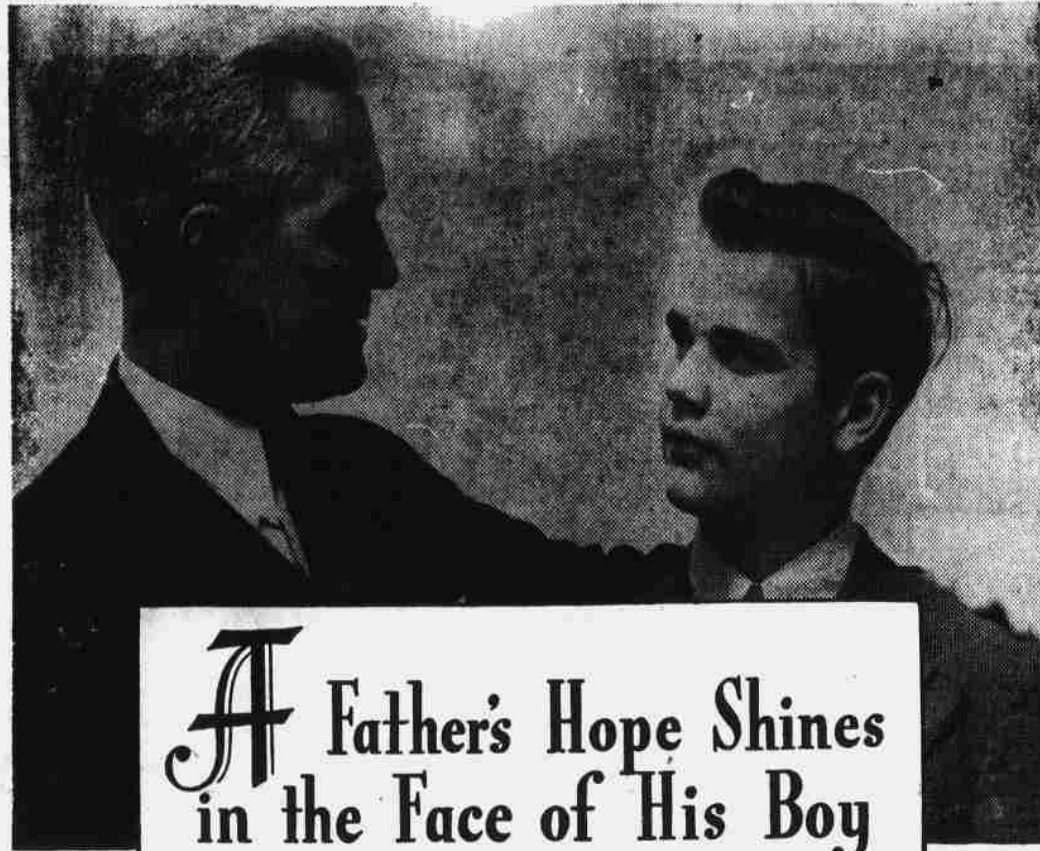
Not every one of us can do the clever, the perfect, the costly or the heroic, but all of us can do the thing that helps and do it for Jesus' sake. Someone has said, truly, that "true service lies not in the magnitude of the deed, but in the spirit of the doer."

Dr. J. Stuart Holden declares: "With his unerring judgment Christ foresaw that need, and loss, and selfishness would characterize our common life in all ages. As the Son of man he identified himself with all need, claimed all love and judged all selfishness. Our common actions have

ored to show their significances for good or ill.

"On the one hand, he accepted all service lovingly rendered to the poor, the hungry, the sick, the sad, as offered to himself. On the other hand, he rebuked the selfishness which withdraws and withdraws from human

(Concluded on Page Two)



A Father's Hope Shines in the Face of His Boy

The tie that binds a parent to his child is a subtle and powerful one. It is the basis of all family relations. It is the most powerful of all incentives to human effort and achievement.

When a father looks into the face of his son, he is seeking more than perfection of feature. He is trying to look through those clear, boyish eyes into the soul that lies behind them.

If he is a wise father, he knows that a strong life must be built on a foundation of faith—faith in the enduring values; faith in the purpose and end of human existence, and in a supreme intelligence which orders the course of the universe. Religion has been the guiding star of the human race as man has climbed upward.

So wise parents, by precept and by example, endeavor to implant religious faith in their children. That is why churches exist. They are the repositories of religious faith, the fountainheads of spiritual power. Drink deep of what they have to give. And let their blessed waters flow into the lives of your children.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend service regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church on Sunday and read your Bible daily.

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Be a Better Citizen! Go to Some Church Next Sunday

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Preston Cayton, Pastor
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except fourth Sunday, at 10 A. M.
Morning worship on fourth Sunday at 11 A. M.
Evening worship fourth Sunday at 8 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
E. T. Jilson, Rector
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

Go To Church -- Your Church -- Any Church -- But Go

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