

Time Audit Chronicles: Peter Raises Tabitha (Dorcas) (Acts 9:36-43)

Prologue: A Life Restored

The Presswood family gathered in the living room, reading **Acts 9:36-43**, the account of Peter raising **Tabitha (Dorcas)** from the dead. Ariel leaned forward, intrigued by the story of a woman who was loved by so many for her good works. Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, imagined herself standing in the room as Peter prayed over Tabitha.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, “Why was Tabitha so special? Why did Peter go all the way to Joppa to see her?”

Ryan smiled, glad Ariel had noticed the significance. “Tabitha, or Dorcas as she’s also called, was a remarkable woman. She was known for her **acts of kindness** and **charity**—especially for making clothes for widows and the poor. When she died, the people in Joppa were heartbroken. They sent for Peter, hoping he could help because they had faith in the **power of God** working through him.”

“So, Peter raised her because God wanted to show His power and love through this miracle?” Ariel asked.

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Tabitha’s life and death show us the beauty of a life lived in service to others, and her **resurrection** reminds us of God’s power to bring **new life**—both physically and spiritually. Let’s use the **Time Audit Machine** to visit this powerful moment.”

The Journey Begins: Tabitha’s Life and Death (Acts 9:36-37)

The **Time Audit Machine** powered up, and with a flash, the family found themselves in the coastal city of **Joppa**, bustling with activity near the Mediterranean Sea. The narrow streets were filled with sorrow as people gathered near Tabitha’s home. Inside the house, several women sat weeping beside the body of Tabitha, which had been washed and placed in an upper room.

Ryan pointed to the women. “Tabitha was loved by so many because she had dedicated her life to **helping others**. Look at how these widows are holding the garments she made for them. Her acts of kindness left a deep impact on this community.”

Ariel looked closely at the women, their tears falling onto the cloaks and tunics Tabitha had sewn. “She really cared about people, didn’t she? She wasn’t just making clothes—she was showing love.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Tabitha’s life was a **reflection** of God’s love. Her generosity and compassion were tangible examples of what it means to serve others in the name of Jesus.”

Peter is Summoned to Joppa (Acts 9:38)

As the women mourned, two men arrived from **Lydda**, where Peter had recently healed a paralyzed man named **Aeneas**. They explained to Peter that Tabitha had died and begged him to come to Joppa without delay. Peter, moved by their faith, immediately agreed to go with them.

Ryan pointed to the two men as they hurried to bring Peter to Joppa. “They didn’t lose hope, even though Tabitha had died. They believed that Peter, through the **power of God**, could do something miraculous.”

Ariel watched Peter set out for Joppa. “They had so much faith! They didn’t even hesitate to ask Peter for help. It’s like they knew God could work through him.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Their faith in **God’s power** was strong, and they trusted that Peter, as one of the apostles, could be the vessel for a miracle.”

Peter Prays for Tabitha (Acts 9:39-40)

When Peter arrived, he was taken to the upper room where Tabitha’s body lay. The widows surrounded him, showing him the garments Tabitha had made and recounting her kindness. Peter, seeing their sorrow and the depth of their love for Tabitha, gently asked everyone to leave the room.

Ariel leaned forward as Peter knelt to pray. “Why did Peter send everyone out of the room?”

Ryan explained, “Peter wanted to focus solely on **prayer** and the presence of God. He knew that this wasn’t something he could do on his own—it had to be the **power of God** at work. By sending everyone out, Peter created a space for **faith** and **communion with God**.”

Peter knelt beside Tabitha and prayed fervently. Then he turned to her body and said, “**Tabitha, arise.**” Immediately, she opened her eyes, sat up, and looked at Peter.

Ariel’s eyes widened with excitement. “She came back to life! That’s incredible!”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “This was a powerful demonstration of God’s ability to bring **new life**. Tabitha’s resurrection wasn’t just about restoring her life—it was about showing the people in Joppa that Jesus’ power over **death** was still at work through His apostles.”

The Community Rejoices (Acts 9:41-42)

Peter took Tabitha by the hand and helped her to her feet. He called the widows and the others back into the room, and when they saw Tabitha alive, their sorrow turned to **joy**. Word of the miracle spread quickly throughout Joppa, and many people came to **believe in Jesus** as a result.

Ryan gestured to the rejoicing crowd. “This miracle wasn’t just about Tabitha—it was a powerful **witness** to the people of Joppa. It showed them that the God Peter served was the God of **life**, and it led many to put their faith in Jesus.”

Ariel watched the people celebrating. “So, Tabitha’s resurrection brought more people to Jesus. Her life and her kindness had already made a difference, and now her resurrection was a sign of God’s power.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Tabitha’s story shows us the impact of a life lived in **faithful service** to others and the power of God to bring **hope and renewal**. Her resurrection was a reminder that even in death, God’s purposes prevail.”

Key Teaching: God’s Power to Restore Life

Back in the garage, the **Time Audit Machine** powered down, and the family reflected on the significance of Tabitha’s story. Ariel turned to her father, her eyes filled with wonder. “Daddy, this story isn’t just about Tabitha coming back to life—it’s about how God can use someone’s life to show His love and power, right?”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “Tabitha’s life was already a testament to God’s love through her **kindness** and **charity**, but her resurrection became a powerful sign of His **ability to restore** and **redeem**. It showed the people in Joppa that Jesus’ power over death wasn’t just something in the past—it was real and active in the present.”

Ariel smiled. “So, even in the hardest moments, like death, God can bring **hope** and show His love through miracles.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “And Tabitha’s story reminds us that every act of kindness, every moment of service, is significant in God’s kingdom. When we live with **faith** and **compassion**, we reflect God’s love to the world.”

Takeaway: A Life of Service and the Power of Resurrection

In **Acts 9:36-43**, Tabitha (Dorcas) is restored to life through Peter’s prayer, demonstrating the **power of God** to bring both physical and spiritual renewal. Tabitha’s life, marked by generosity and service, had already made a profound impact on her community. Her resurrection became a **witness** to the power of Jesus, leading many to **believe in Him**. This story teaches us that a life lived in **service** to others can leave a lasting legacy, and that God’s power is able to bring **hope**, even in the darkest moments. It reminds us that through **faith** and **obedience**, we can be part of God’s redemptive work in the world.