***Acts 9:36-41 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.***

Mother’s Day – a day to honor our mothers, grandmothers, and mother-like people in our lives. It’s a time to think back to the one we called Mama, all she taught us, the example she set, and, for many of us, the Christian pathway she set us upon. God gave us mothers, not as playmates, but as pointers. Mothers, we’re called to point our children to the Truth of God. May we do our job well.

Verse 36 starts - *At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.* Joppa is close to Lydda, where Peter has just healed Aeneas. We meet a certain disciple, meaning a learner of Christ, named Tabitha, or Dorcas in Greek, translated gazelle. She’s full of good works – the Greek has the idea that she is overflowing with good works. She is charitable, generous, giving to the poor. The Bible adds “which she did”. We can be filled with good works overflowing with charity, but we must DO! Don’t wait to be asked. Do. Have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands that do. Mothers, pursue good works with charity.

Verses 37 – 39 *But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.* So, Tabitha got sick and died, and is laid in an upper room. The disciples knew Peter was nearby and sent for him. He arose, we see that so often in God’s miracles – we must arise and get about the work of God! We learn Tabitha is a seamstress, making beautiful garments. Peter walks into a very chaotic situation. The widows are wailing, showing garments and talking about the love Tabitha showed. It’s loud, seemingly crowded, and filled with high emotion. Mothers, focus on God’s work no matter the chaos.

Verses 40 – 41 *But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.* Peter puts the chaos and distractions outside. Notice his first step. He kneels and prays. Mother’s remember the first step must always be to seek God and pray. Peter turns to the target – Tabitha – and says, “Tabitha arise, ” and God raises her from the dead. Mothers, stay focused on the target God has given you. But notice there were saints **and** widows. The word saint here is the same Greek word used elsewhere for Holy. As is almost always the case, there are believers and non-believers present, but this miracle is witnessed by all. Mothers and Fathers, our call is to present good works, charitable deeds, and the Gospel to all around us. Mothers, there will be believers and unbelievers in your circle. Witness to them all. Let God Revive.

Quickly, verse 43 *So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.* Peter healed Tabitha, but he went and stayed with a lowly tanner, Simon. When God does great things for us and through us, we must stay humble, knowing it is God and not us. We are only the vessel bearing God’s Word and blessings. Mothers, be that vessel bearing God’s blessings to all.

This week, let’s honor our mothers. Mothers and Fathers, be filled with good works, charitable deeds, and do them. Focus on God’s work no matter the chaos. Remember the first step is prayer. Stay focused on the target God has entrusted to you. Witness to all in your circle. Be the vessel bearing God’s blessings to everyone.

***Mothers, thank you for your witness and works, enjoy your day, and know there is much work still ahead.***