In His Image

Quarterly Newsletter  Summer 2017

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Devotional

Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God a person endures grief, suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if when you are being beaten for your sins you patiently endure? But if when doing good and suffering for it, you patiently endure, this is favorable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps (1 Peter 2:18-20, MEV).

We are encouraged to show respect to our employers whether they are unbelievers, good or bad because this is what God expects of us. As Christians, in order to follow Jesus’ example, we are to be kind to those who mistreat us, especially to those in authority like employers because in doing this, we obey Jesus’ command to be perfect as the Father is perfect. “For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45, MEV).

In the Spotlight

Her name was Tabitha which is translated, Dorcas. She lived in Joppa, a city of Palestine on the Mediterranean, lying on the border of the tribes of Dan and Ephraim. It was subject to the Jews from the times of the Maccabees. It had a famous but dangerous port and carried on a flourishing trade. It is now called Jaffa. She was a
disciple who was full of good works and charitable deeds. There is no mention of a husband or children. Most likely she was single.

One day, she got ill and died. After they washed her, they put her in the upper room. When they learned that the apostle Peter was in Lydda, a town which was 9 miles from Joppa, they sent two messengers to beg him to go to Joppa immediately. Peter went with them. When he arrived, they were waiting for him and he was led to the upper room where Dorcas lay. Widows were there, weeping and they showed him the tunics and garments she had made for them.

Peter had everyone leave the room then knelt down and prayed. Then, turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, arise.” She opened her eyes and when she saw him, she sat up. He held out his hand and lifted her up. Then he called the widows and the others and presented Tabitha to them.

News of Peter raising Tabitha from the dead spread and as a result, many believed in the Lord.

Not much is known about this Christian woman except her passion to serve others. Yet, she has inspired the Dorcas Society, a local group of people, usually based in a church, with a mission of providing clothing to the poor. The Dorcas societies were established in the 1800s and were at their height then. In 1879, the Seventh-day Adventist Church officially named the “Dorcas Society” as its community outreach program. Today, these societies continue to provide clothing and meet other physical needs around the world, bringing joy to others as Dorcas did.

Sources: Bible Gateway, Blue Letter Bible, Wikipedia; Adventist Community Services

Bible Study

In Jesus’ time, people had the wrong idea about God, the Father but Jesus cleared up those misconceptions.

Read John 3:16, 17: Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10. What do these verses reveal about the nature of God?

Read Luke 15:11-32. How does the father in this parable reflect God’s character?

Read 2 Peter 3:9. How would this verse help someone who may have trust issues about God?