



The Funeral That Almost Was

Read Acts 9:36-42

Introduction:

Name a “Tabitha” in your life. What was something you saw in that person that impacted your life?

Into the Text:

1. Your obituary is written long before any words are printed on a newspaper page or spoken at your funeral. It is written in your actions and attitudes and verified by all the lives that you touched. Tabitha had been writing her obituary her whole life. What did her obituary say?
2. One of the tricks of the devil is to get us to put off serving others generously until our lives are “just right.” How sad if this were an example of our obituary:

“He always planned on helping the poor once he knew that he had enough for himself. She had every intention of getting involved in service to her Savior in church or in a community group once things settled down in her life. He would have been concerned with the problems in other peoples’ lives, but he had a lot of his own to work through first. She was always going to start giving a proportionate amount back to the LORD in her offerings once she had reached her financial goals in her life.”

This text gives us many reasons why we will not want to put off a life of generosity. Scan this short account and give at least three reasons.

Applying It:

1. We discussed Tabitha's "Almost Obituary." She was likely not one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People of 35 AD." It was a robe here. A penny there. A garment here. A crust of bread there. She may not have been able to give the world, but what she gave meant the world to those who received it. These were the people who were preaching at her funeral. More specifically, what do you want your obituary or eulogy to say?

2. We just talked about what you would want said at your funeral. Here's your chance to "eulogize" someone else in this church family. If you were asked to say a few words about someone else (your pick!), what "robe and other clothing" might you mention about their lives?