



## SHEROES & CHAMPIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

### The Book of Acts - Dorcas and Sapphira Women's Discipleship Group - Terri McFaddin Series #2 Lesson #2

#### **Scripture Focus:**

*Then immediately she (Sapphira) fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead and carried her out, buried her by her husband. (Acts 5:10)*

*At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. (Acts 9:36-37)*

**Key Words: Charitable: (Greek) – Eleemon: Merciful – Not just pity but actively compassionate. Used of Christ as our High Priest.**

#### **OPENING STATEMENT:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts tells the story of a woman named Sapphira who met with sudden death. The 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts also tells the story of a woman who died. Her name was Tabitha and she was the first woman in the Bible who was called a disciple. This probably meant that she was ranked among the leaders of her church.

Even though both of these women were members of the newly formed Christian church, the circumstances concerning their deaths are two completely different stories. Sapphira died in shame because she and her husband Ananais lied about the amount of money they promised to give the church. When the scheme was uncovered the Holy Spirit struck them both dead.

Tabitha, on the other hand, died as a champion of the faith. The scriptures tell us that she was full of good works and charitable deeds. She made her living as a seamstress, which probably meant that she was not wealthy or well educated. But that did not stop her from being used by God in a great way. The women around her were so distraught at the thought of losing this hard working leader and disciple that they sent for Peter. Tabitha was so important to the church that Peter came to her house and prayed her back to life.

Just for a moment, I want you to imagine that Sapphira and Tabitha meet outside of heaven in the judgment hall. They recognize each other from the community of saints. Tabitha is excited about meeting Jesus face to face, but Sapphira and her husband Ananias seem troubled and perplexed. “Isn’t it wonderful, we get to see our Lord!” Tabitha said with joy. Much to her surprise, Sapphira began to weep. “My husband and I made a terrible mistake and now it’s too late for the Lord’s forgiveness.” Just as Sapphira was about to tell her the story, Tabitha heard someone calling her name. The voice seemed to be that of Peter. “Tabitha! Tabitha! Arise!”

Perhaps you are a woman that was once full of good works, but something happened in your life and you are like a dead person that no longer serves the Lord. I pray that you will be healed and resurrected so that you will continue to use your talents to serve the Lord.

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

1. What is the difference between the death of Sapphira and the death of Tabitha?

2. What was the reaction of the people in the church when Ananias and Sapphira died?

### **INTERPRETATION:**

List 3 possible reasons why the Holy Spirit took such extreme measures with Ananias and Sapphira.

### **PERSONALIZATION:**

Think of someone you know who faithfully serves the Lord. Write about their good deeds and why you think they are a blessing to you personally and to the Body of Christ.

### **APPLICATION:**

Do something to let the person that is doing a good work for the Lord know how much you appreciate them.