

Bible Characters You've (Probably) Never Heard Of

Acts 9:36-42: Dorcas (A Life of Service)

Tertullian: Non magna loquimur, sed vivimus.

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 9:36-42 (Author = Luke)

Dorcas Restored to Life

36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha [Syriac], **which is translated Dorcas** [Greek]. **This woman was full** [replete, covered over, full, filled up, lacking nothing in the area of] **of good works** [business, activity, works] **and charitable deeds** [mercy, pity, giving alms, donations to the poor, compassionateness, beneficence, benefaction] **which she did** [1 Timothy 2:9-10. Dorcas _____ her faith]. **37 But it happened in those days that she became sick** [weak, feeble, without strength, powerless, impotent] **and died** [Righteous living does _____ guarantee a life free of pain, suffering, poverty, or sickness]. **When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.** **38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring** [calling, summoning, exhorting, entreating, admonishing, encouraging, instructing, inviting, invoking, beseeching] **him not to delay** [hesitate, be slow, delay] **in coming to them** [Why?]. **39 Then 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** [sobbing, wailing aloud, mourning, lamenting], **showing** [_____, showing] **the tunics** [undergarments] **and garments** [outer or upper garments] **which Dorcas had made while she was with them.** **40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise** [stand up]." [Peter had moved from fear at the _____ to faith at the _____] **And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.** **41 Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented** [stood beside and _____] **her alive** [Ephesians 2:10]. **42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.**

Look at your hands. **What have your hands created? Who have your hands served? What do your hands do?** Dorcas was identified by what her hands did. She lived a life of service. Her Christianity affected her—it made a difference in her own life and in the lives of others. **Are _____ hands making a difference?**

This account tells the tale of a _____ disciple. This account is a picture of what will happen to all productive disciples one day—we will be raised to life to be with those that love us (our brothers and sisters in Christ).

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. _____ is important
2. People love people who love tangibly
3. Health ≠ spirituality
4. There is a time for public mourning
5. There is a time for private prayer
6. Don't reinvent the _____
7. There is a time for public rejoicing
8. Jesus still raises from the _____
9. Jesus fixes things completely
10. A good-work-filled _____ brings God glory

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Get busy working
2. Love the body of Christ in visible ways
3. Be _____
4. Mourn with those that mourn
5. Don't ignore personal time with God
6. Copy the examples in the Bible
7. Celebrate the good with the body
8. Tell others about Christ
9. Know that Jesus will fix it _____ one day
10. Be an exhibit of God's love, mercy, and grace

Homework: Read 2 Samuel 6:1-7 (Uzzah)

1 Again David gathered all *the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.* **2** And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. **3** So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. **4** And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. **5** Then David and all the house of Israel played *music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.*

6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out *his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.* **7** Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for *his error; and he died there by the ark of God.*

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2 Samuel 6:1-7: Uzzah (A Life of Shock)

Pragmatism and Stanley Kirk Burrell

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Samuel 6:1-7

What did the ark of the covenant hold?

What did the ark of the covenant symbolize?

Background: [Exodus 25:10-15](#); [Numbers 4:1-6, 15](#); [7:1-9](#) and J. Vernon McGee

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

1 Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand. **2** And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. **3** So they set the ark of God on a new [new, new thing, fresh] cart [cart, wagon, chariot, wheeled vehicle; it is _____ right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right], and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah [eww-ZSA; strength] and Ahio [akh-YO; brotherly, fraternal], the sons of Abinadab, drove [led, proceeded with, drove, guided] the new cart. **4** And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went [walked] before the ark. **5** Then David and all the house of Israel played [laughed, rejoiced, played] music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir [cypress, fir, juniper, pine] wood, on harps [lyre, harp], on stringed instruments [harp, lute, guitar], on tambourines, on sistrums [cornet, rattling instrument], and on cymbals.

6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor [open, flat, barn-like area], Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold [seized, caught, took hold] of it, for the oxen stumbled [flung down, jostled, released, shook, stumbled; this was an extremely pragmatic decision that cost Uzzah his _____]. **7** Then the anger [_____, nostril (place of longsuffering)] of the LORD was aroused [grew hot, flamed, burned, increased] against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error [error, fault]; and he died there by the ark of God.

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. _____ is critical
2. It is _____ right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right
3. **Coffman: None of God's commandments are _____**
4. Leaders have a responsibility to get leadership right
5. Laity have a responsibility to check that the leaders are getting it right
6. God seemingly allows a certain amount of disobedience
7. A big _____ does not guarantee God's blessing
8. God will one day separate those that follow Him from those that do not follow Him
9. There are things that make God _____

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Always start with the background
2. Seek righteousness
3. Know and obey all God's commands
4. _____ for our leaders
5. Study the Word and double-_____ the leaders
6. Pursue holiness
7. Obey as explicitly as God has described (and always look for the _____ obedience)
8. Follow Him
9. Know Him

Next week, the rest of the story . . . and another Bible Character You've (Probably) Never Heard Of.

Homework: Read 2 Samuel 6:8-23 (Michal)

Bible Characters You've (Probably) Never Heard Of

2 Samuel 6:8-23: Michal (A Life of Sarcasm)

Stanley Kirk Burrell and bitterness

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Samuel 6:8-23 (Author = Samuel)

Review of last week: the _____ were not followed and Uzzah died.

Background on Michal (the youngest daughter of Saul)

1 Samuel 18:17-30 Loves David and is given to David as a reward for killing _____

1 Samuel 19:11-17 Rescues David from Saul by lowering him down through a window and does not see David again for several years

1 Samuel 25:44 Given in marriage by Saul to another man (after David marries multiple others)

2 Samuel 3:13-16 David sees her/gets her back years later

Summary: Michal was _____ by her father and her husband

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

8 And David became angry [grew hot, flamed, burned, increased] **because of the LORD's outbreak** [breach, break, outbreak, bursting forth, gap] **against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day** [confusion and _____ result in not following God's plans].

9 David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" 10 So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. 11 The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite [a Levite of the house of Kohath] **three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.**

12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David [at least 10 miles] **with gladness. 13 And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. 14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod** [**1 Chronicles 15:** this is what all the _____ were wearing]. **15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.**

16 Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter [she is not described as David's wife, but rather as Saul's daughter], **looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. 17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. 19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.**

20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" [Spurgeon: Pirates look out for _____ vessels.]

21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. 22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. _____ is critical to properly understanding the Bible
2. Assuming knowledge of God is dangerous
3. Confusion and anger result in not following God's plan
4. Worship is for the Lord
5. God's plan for _____ is best
6. Bitterness can ruin the best of days
7. Hateful sarcasm never helps

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Always start with the background
2. Constantly review
3. Know God's directions
4. Worship in ways that honors the Lord, not in ways that bow down to men
5. Follow God's plan for marriage (1+1=___)
6. _____ the bitterness
7. Hold my tongue

Homework: Read Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-50, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11 (Malchus)

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Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-50, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11: Malchus (A Life of Separation)

Fleshing out the gospel

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-50, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-11 (Authors = Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

Matthew 26:47-56: Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

49 Guzik: Apparently, Jesus was _____ enough in appearance so that it was necessary that Judas specifically identify Him for the sake of those arresting Jesus

51 Do head wounds bleed much? Would blood have gotten on Malchus' clothes?

52 Peter put his faith in his _____ instead of Jesus

Mark 14:43-50: Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

44 Now His betrayer [Judas] had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely ['securely' is a better translation]."

Luke 22:47-53: Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

50 Malchus was injured because Malchus was probably out front and was probably laying hands on Jesus

51 Godshall: Jesus showed Malchus what mercy looked like. Jesus healed an _____ in the midst of a battle

Barclay: Had Jesus not healed Malchus, Peter would have been arrested as well; and there might have been _____ crosses at Calvary.

52 _____ eventually comes face-to-face with Jesus

John 18:1-11: Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

1 The first Adam _____ in the garden, but the second Adam (Jesus) passed the test with flying colors in this garden because Jesus is the true and better Adam

Jesus does not promise us a life of ease, but He does promise us a life _____ Him

5 We either stand with Jesus or we stand with His enemies. There is ____ middle ground.

8 Guzik: Take Me, let these go is the same sacrificial love that takes Jesus to the cross for us all. In bearing our judgment for sin, He said the same thing to the Father's

_____.

Adam Godshall: The Gospel According to Malchus

One: The Gospel is a _____ of God.

Three: The Gospel is an act of _____.

Two: The Gospel is a call to _____.

Four: The Gospel is a power to _____.

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. Jesus was not popular
2. It is easy to put faith in something other than Jesus
3. Jesus never quit
4. Our rash actions hurt others
5. Jesus healed His enemies
6. Everyone eventually comes face to face with Jesus
7. God's name is powerful
8. I am the mob and I am _____

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Don't _____ about Jesus' popularity
2. Regularly put faith in Jesus
3. Stay focused on Jesus
4. _____ down
5. _____
6. Be ready
7. Trust His name and not _____
8. Let Jesus heal me

Homework: Read Acts 12:1-19 (Rhoda)

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Acts 12:1-19: Rhoda (A Life of Shock)

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 12:1-19 (Author = Luke)

Herod's Violence to the Church

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out *his* hand to harass some from the church. **2** Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. **3** And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was *during* the Days of Unleavened Bread. **4** So when he had arrested him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four squads [____ total] of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

Peter Freed from Prison

5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. **6** And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. **7** Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by *him*, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off *his* hands. **8** Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." **9** So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. **10** When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and *from* all the expectation of the Jewish people."

12 So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying [This implies that Mary was _____]. **13** And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda [_____—a Gentile name] came [she was _____] to answer [she was _____]. **14** When she recognized Peter's voice [she was _____], because of her gladness [she was _____] she did not open the gate [she was _____/stunned], but ran in [she was _____] and announced that Peter stood before the gate [she was _____ about the truth]. **15** But they said to her,

“You are beside yourself [maniacal, raving mad]!” **Yet she kept insisting** [constantly affirming and insisting] **that it was so** [she was persistently _____]. **So they said, “It is his angel.”**

16 Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened *the door* and saw him, they were astonished [msdora.hubpages.com: **Prayer is preparation for God to include _____**].

17 But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren.” And he departed and went to another place.

18 Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. 19 But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that *they* should be put to death.

And he [Peter] **went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed *there*.**

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. “_____” things matter
2. Good news must be shared
3. Pausing the “spiritual” to do the “practical” is sometimes necessary
4. “Service” takes many shapes
5. Jesus knows who is serving Him
6. Everybody makes mistakes
7. Everybody has a part to play
8. Everybody is valuable in the kingdom

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Be faithful in the “little” things
2. Persist in sharing good news
3. Don't be so heavenly minded that I'm no _____ good
4. Never look down on another's _____
5. Serve Him with gladness
6. Focus on the important things, not my mistakes
7. Be _____
8. Know my value in the kingdom

Homework: Read Acts 21:15-16 (Mnason)

Bible Characters You've (Probably) Never Heard Of

Acts 21:15-16: Mnason (A Life of Significance)

Tom Bodett and me

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 21:15-16 (Author = Luke)

Context of Acts 21

1-3: Travel (Cos → Rhodes → Patara → Phoenicia—passed Cyprus → Syria → Tyre)

4: Disciples in Tyre (stayed there seven days, encouraged Paul not to go to Jerusalem)

5-6: Sendoff (whole families went out to see them off—possibly because they thought they would never see him again)

7-11: Travel (Tyre → Ptolemais (brothers and sisters for a day) → Caesarea (Phillip the evangelist) → Agabus' prophecy)

12-14: Statement (Paul knows he is going to Jerusalem to be bound and to _____ and he could not be dissuaded)

15: Travel (Caesarea → Jerusalem)

Acts 22: Paul speaks to the Jews and then they target him for elimination

What was going on with Paul

1. We are talking from the book of **Acts**. That means we are:
 - a. Hearing from Luke
 - b. Talking about the launch of the church
 - c. Watching the expansion of the _____ to the Gentiles
2. Paul understood that he was heading to Jerusalem to his death
 - a. Prophecy of Agabus: Paul would be bound and killed
 - b. **Acts 22:** Paul speaks to the Jews and they are patient with his testimony until he brings in the Gentiles
 - c. Paul was a Roman citizen

Acts 21:16: Mnason, the person _____ the scenes that was named
16 Also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.

What we know for sure about Mnason:

1. The disciples from Caesarea stayed with Mnason during Paul's 3rd missionary journey
2. Mnason was from Cyprus
3. "**Early disciple**" = converted early in the history of the church (older man?)
4. Greek word for "reminding" or "_____"
5. Mnason was _____ for Paul while Paul was Mnason's guest
6. Mnason's name is in scripture for all eternity

Some things we may surmise

1. Fairly sure he had a home in Jerusalem
2. Many assume he was an associate of Barnabas
3. Many assume Mnason was a man of _____ since it was a large group that stayed with him
4. Virtually nothing else known about him

What I take away from this:

1. Most people in the world are not, and never will be, the people on _____. Most people are the people behind the scenes doing the real work of ministry.
 - a. God uses everyday people to do His will and work
 - b. It is not popular to look for accolades in heaven rather than now
2. Mnason was highly regarded and Luke included him here because he was well known and respected in the church. He could have included been because:
 - a. Mnason was _____ and God chose to include Mnason
 - b. Mnason represents those of us that just do what God has called us to do
 - c. Luke was just being detail oriented
3. God values hospitality
 - a. Mnason took care of Paul
 - b. Sometimes, the person on point needs _____
 - c. **When was the last time you hosted someone in your house that you did not know or was not family?**

Apply (So what is the point?)

1. God uses _____ people to do His work
2. God values what we do for others
3. God values hospitality

Personalize (Now what do I do?)

1. Do not undervalue your contribution to God's work
2. Look for opportunities to serve others
3. Stay focused on _____