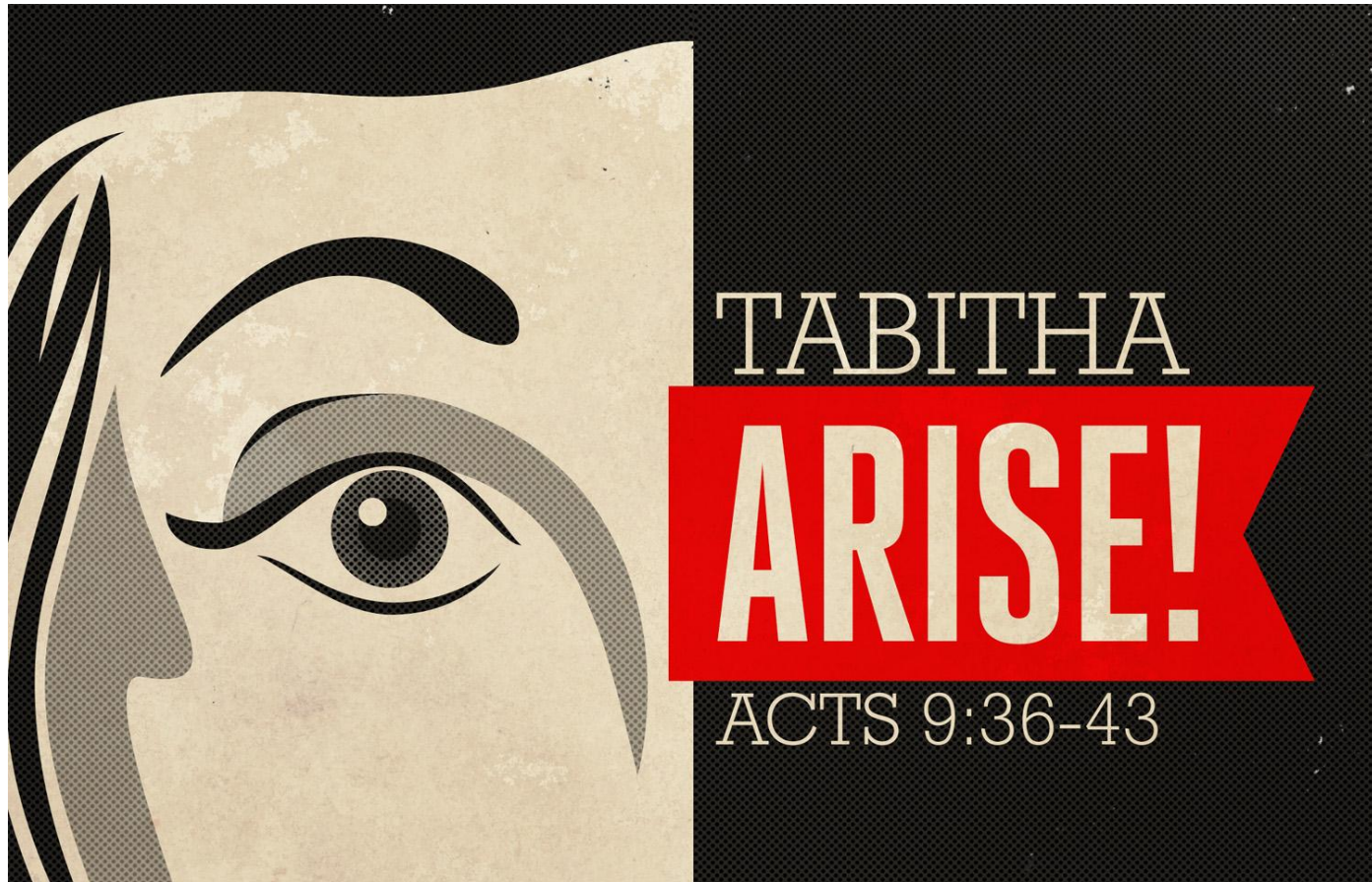


Today: 9 Feb 2014



**“Dorcas – Touching Lives & MORE”**

by Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

# Who Am I?



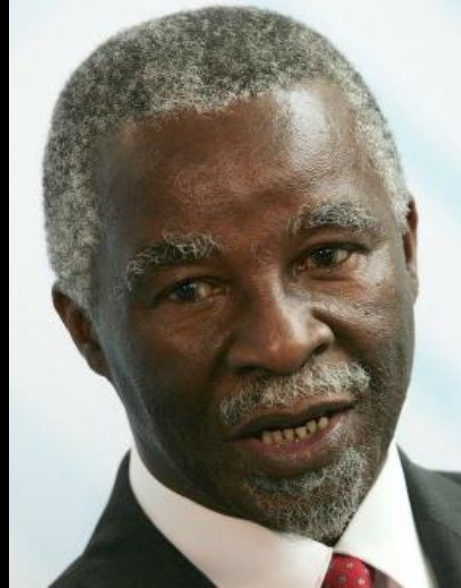
**Ralph David  
Abernathy**



**Nirmala**



**Tim Cook**



**Thabo Mbeki**

**Dorcas -**  
**Touching**  
**Lives &**  
**MORE...**  
*Acts 9:36-43*





**<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.**



**37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.**



<sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him,



**"Please come at once!"**





**<sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.**





**<sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up."**



**She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.  
41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.**



**Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive.**

**42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.**

**43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.**

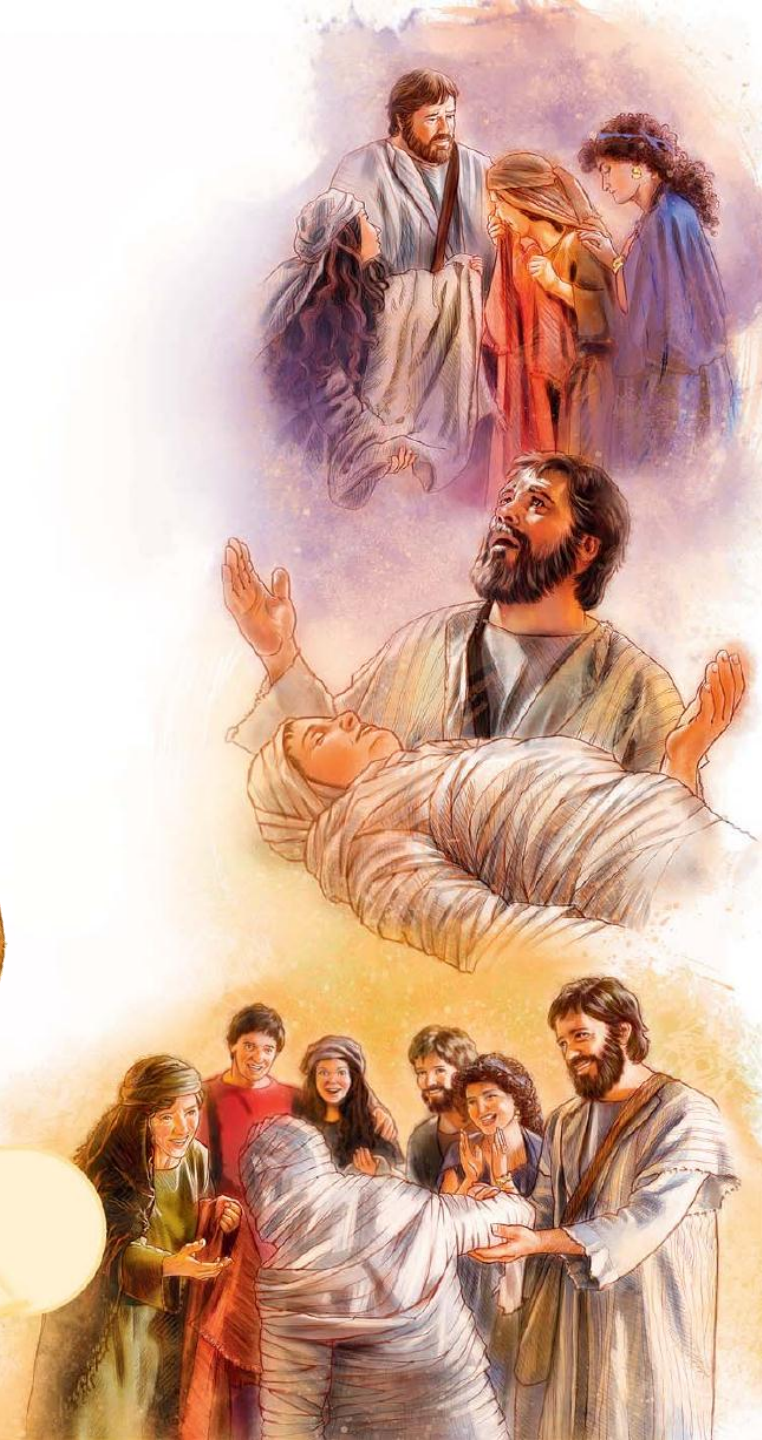


# DORCAS

Who was *Dorcas* ?

Also called *Tabitha*

- in *Aramaic*
- *Greek : Dorcas*
- Meaning - “Gazelle”

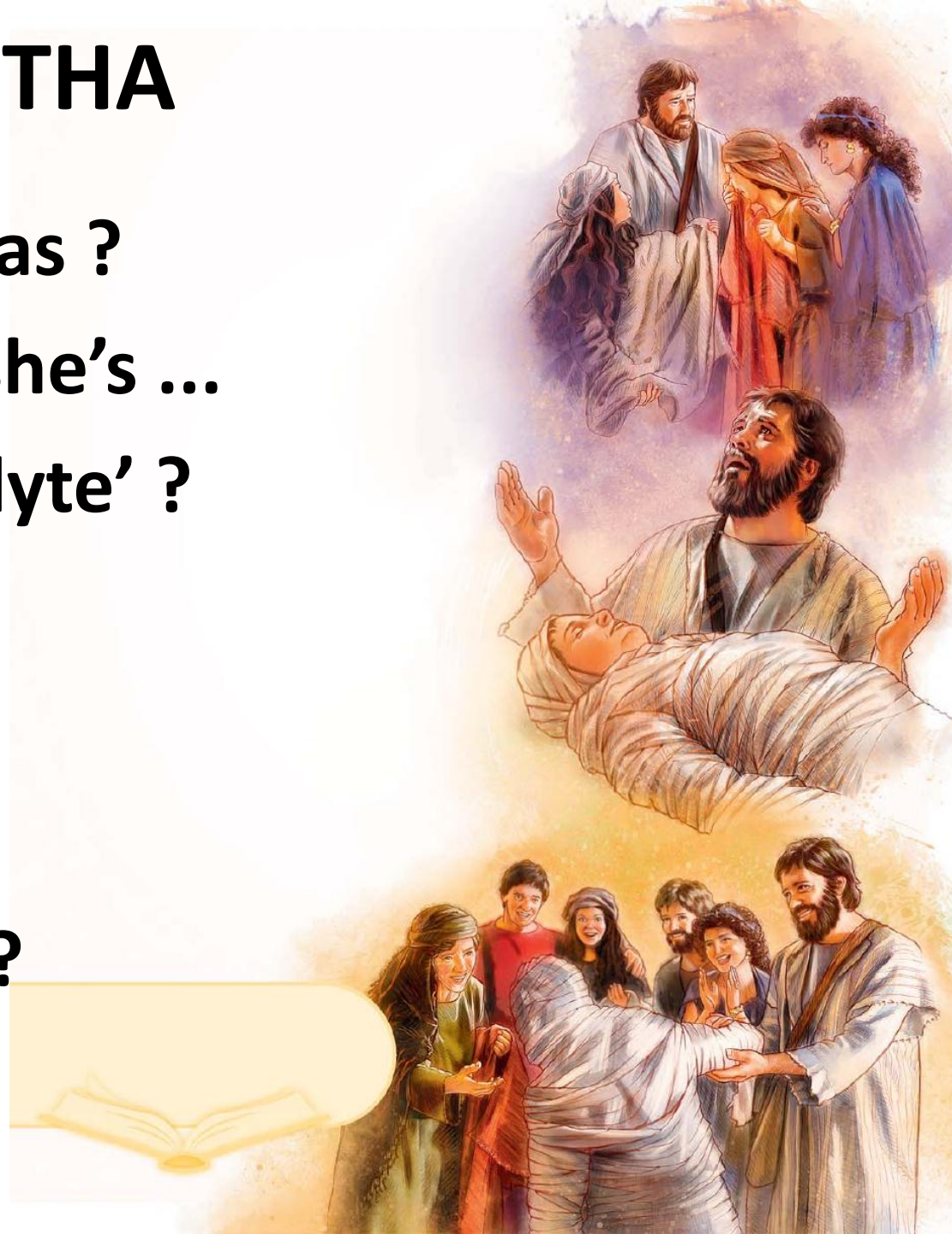


# DORCAS ak TABITHA

Who then was Dorcas ?

We do not know if she's ...

- a Jew or a 'proselyte' ?
- Married or not ?
- Any children ?
- Widow ?
- Economic status ?

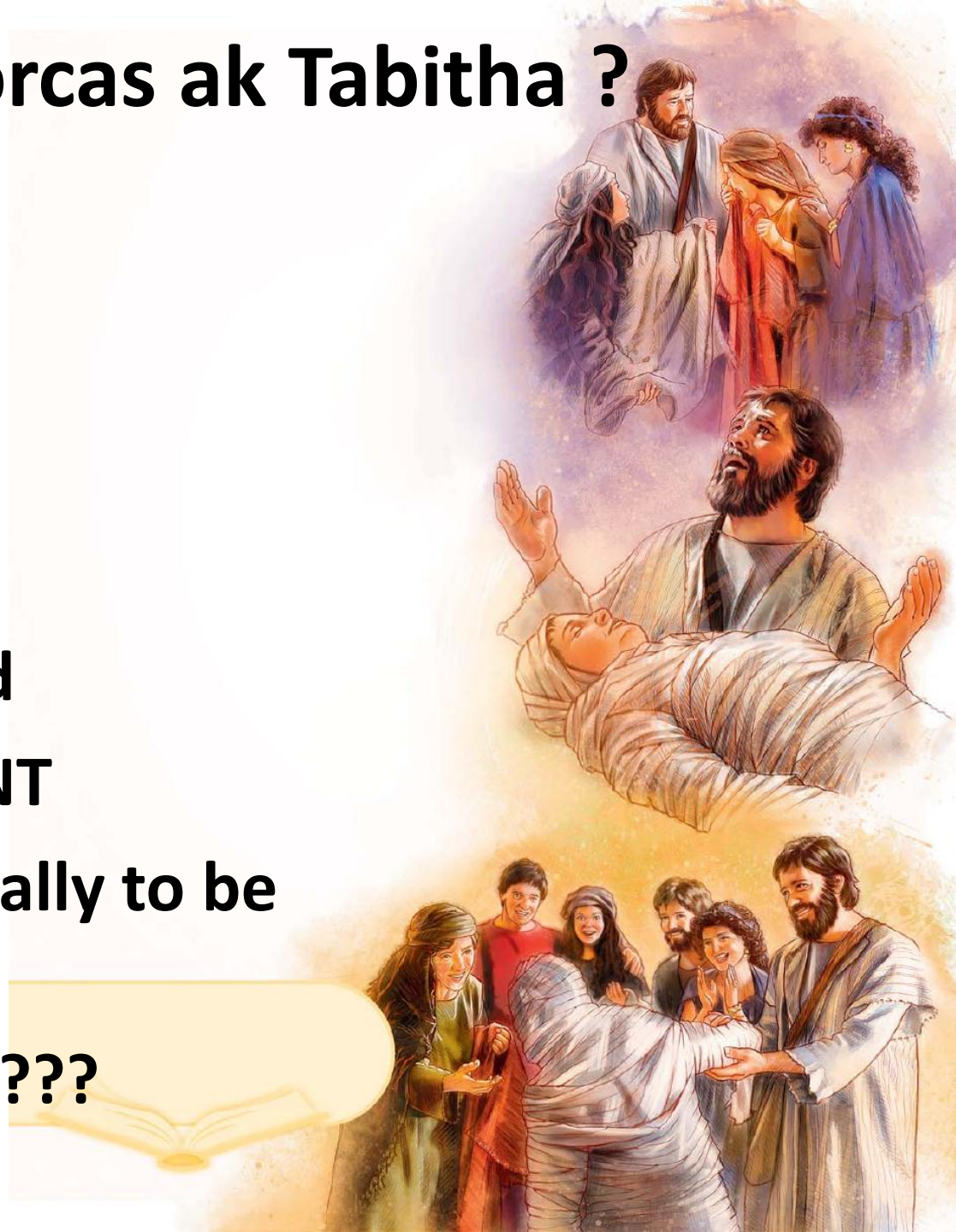


# Who then was Dorcas ak Tabitha ?

We DO KNOW she's ...

1. a **'DISCIPLE'** ....

- Usual Gk : *mathetes*
- Gk : *mathetria*
  - Feminine Gk word
  - Only time in the NT
- Only female specifically to be called a 'disciple'
- When, How, Where ???

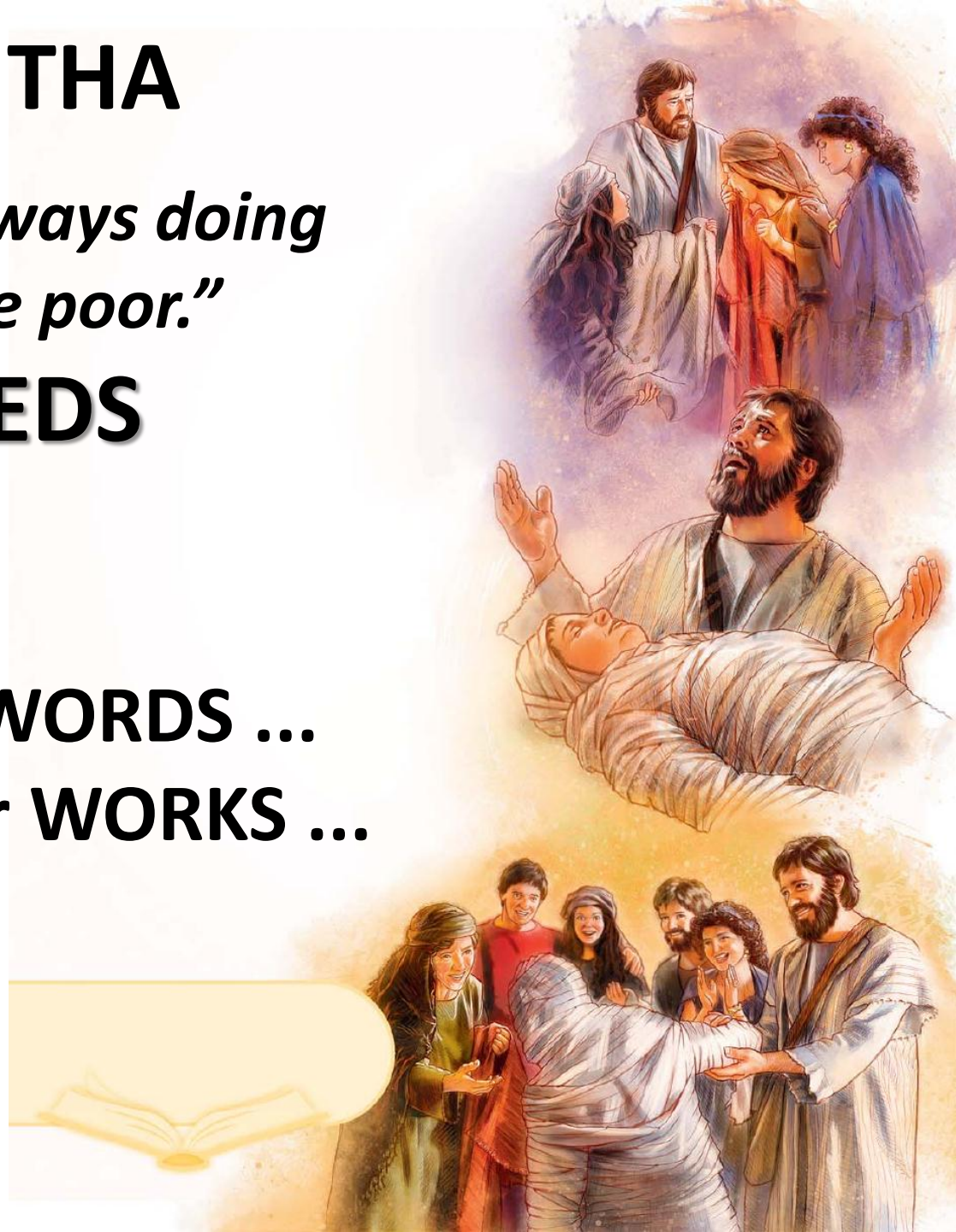


# DORCAS ak TABITHA

**V36b : “... who was always doing good and helping the poor.”**

## **2. a DOER of DEEDS**

- **Not a ‘thinker’**
- **Not a ‘talker’**
- **No record of her WORDS ...**
- **Only record of her WORKS ...**



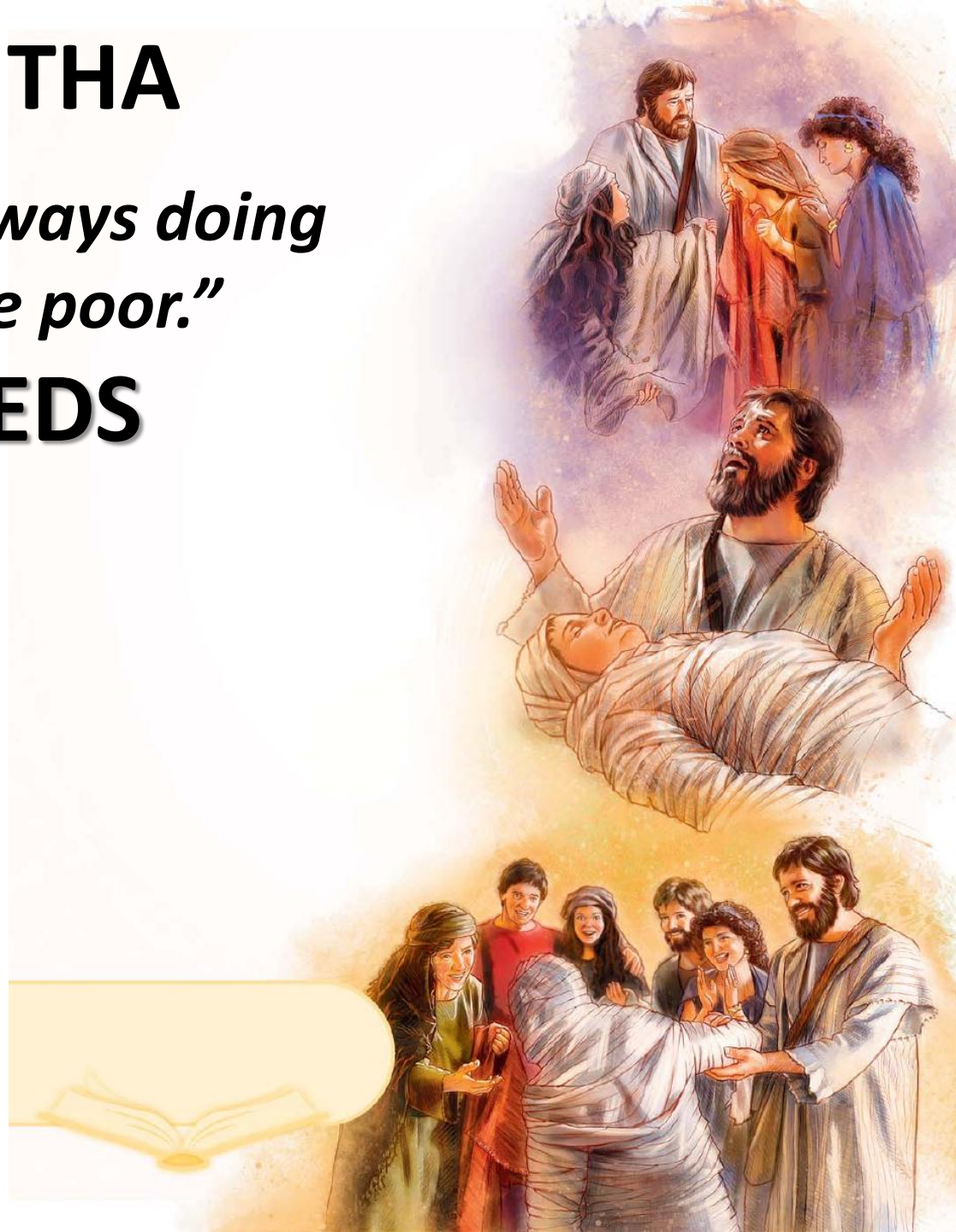


# DORCAS ak TABITHA

**V36b : “... who was always doing good and helping the poor.”**

## **2. a DOER of DEEDS**

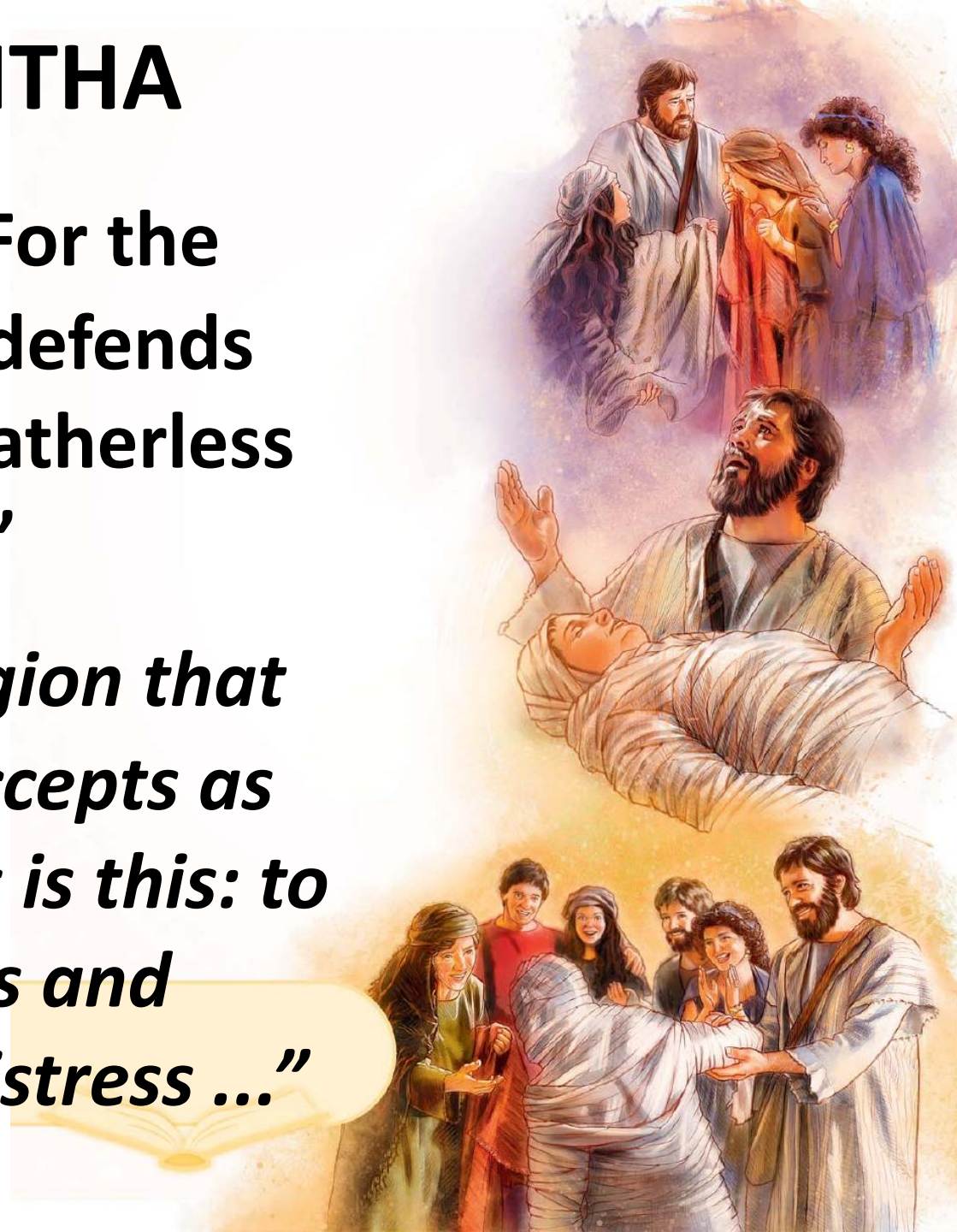
- **v39 widows**



# DORCAS ak TABITHA

**Deut 10:17-18** “For the Lord your God ... defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow,...”

**James 1:27** *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress ...”*

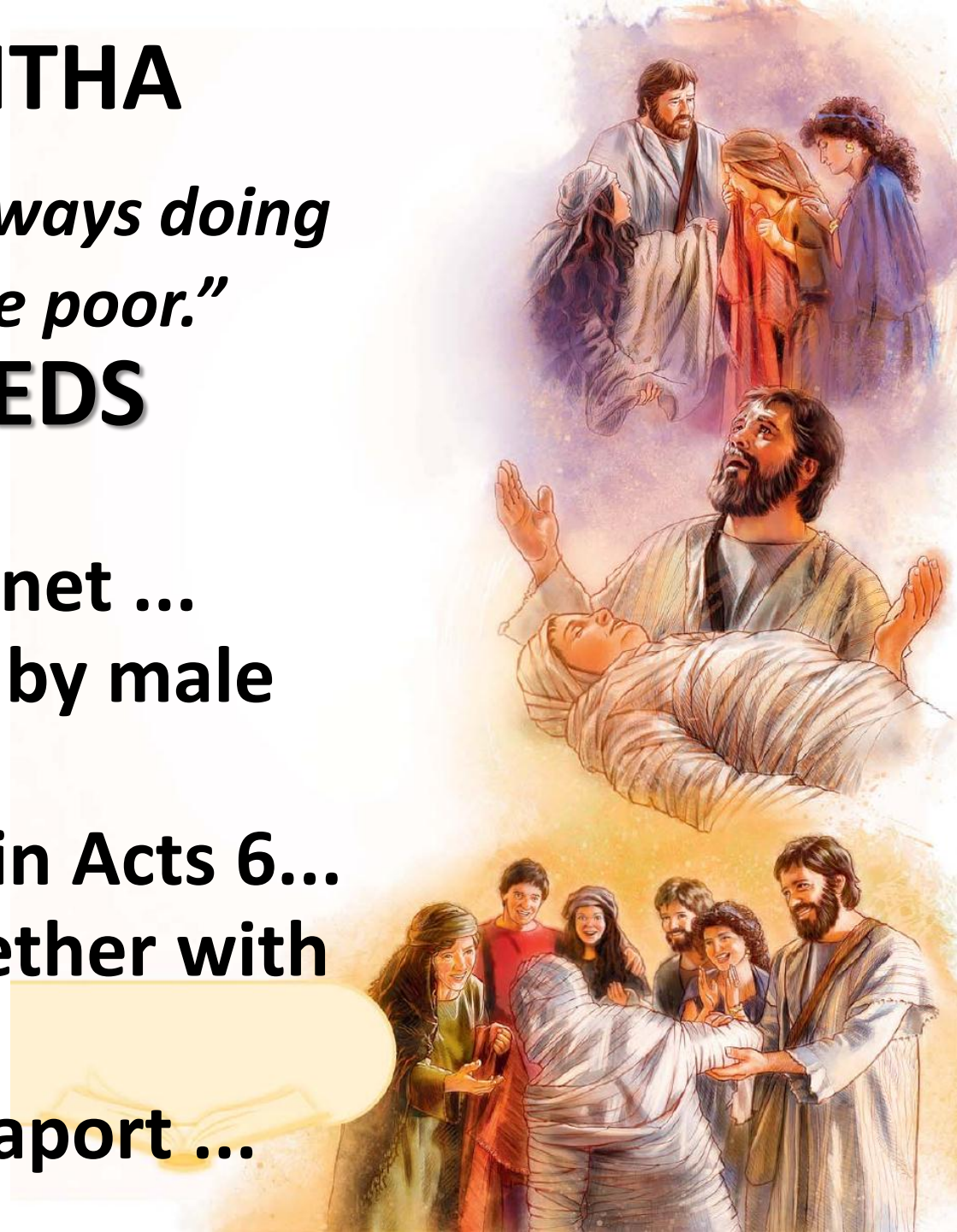


# DORCAS ak TABITHA

**V36b : “... who was always doing good and helping the poor.”**

## **2. a DOER of DEEDS**

- **v39 widows**
  - **No social safety net ...**
  - **‘Worth’ defined by male headship ...**
  - **Eg Early Church in Acts 6...**
  - **Esp needful together with orphans ...**
- **Esp in Joppa, a seaport ...**



## 2. a DOER of DEEDS      DORCAS ak TABITHA

- Made clothings ...a seamstress
- Hand-sewn clothings ...
- ?? Hand-spun cloths !!

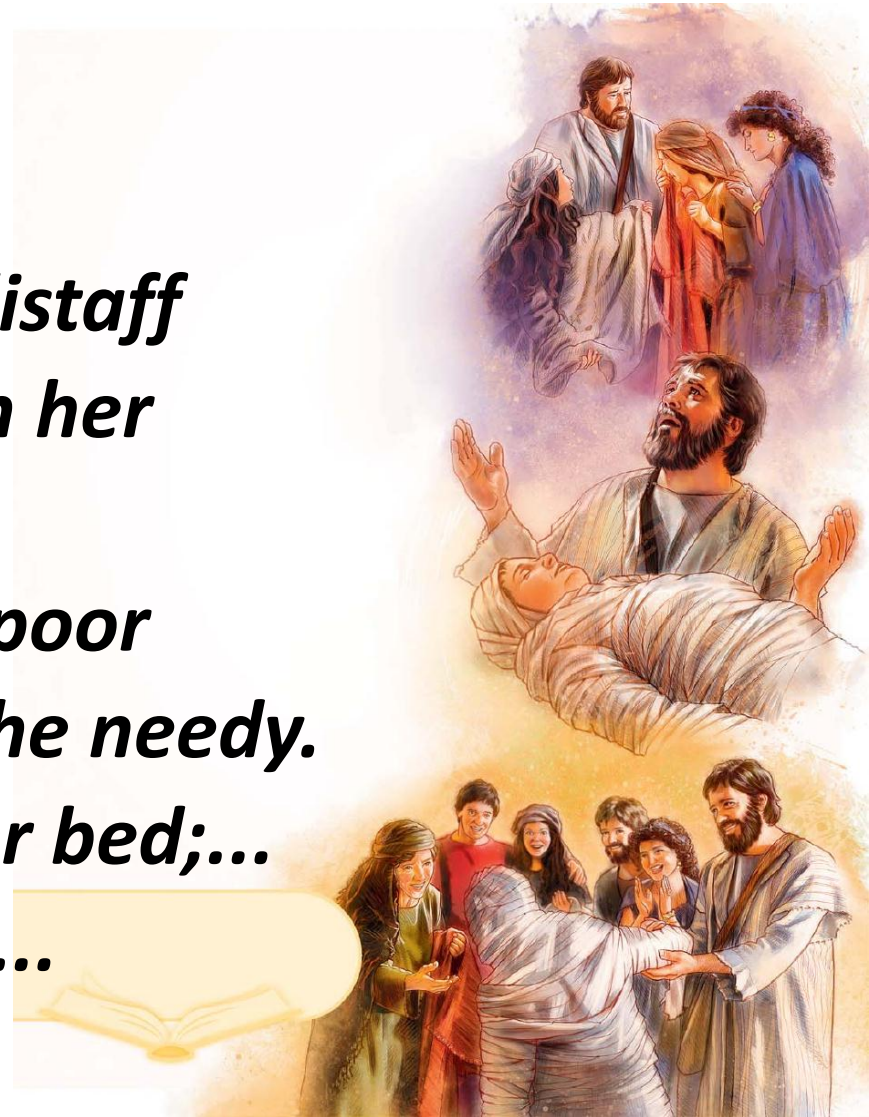
Prov 31:19-24

***19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.***

***20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.***

***22 She makes coverings for her bed;...***

***24 She makes linen garments ...***

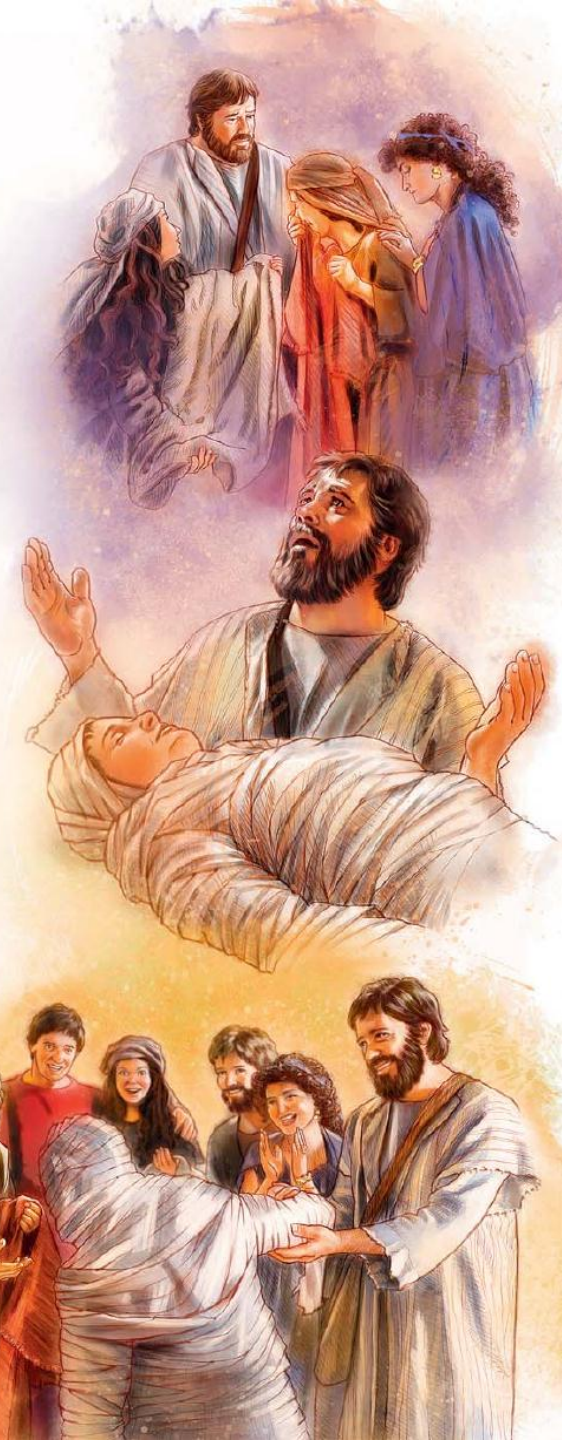


# DORCAS ak TABITHA

*v<sup>37</sup> About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.*

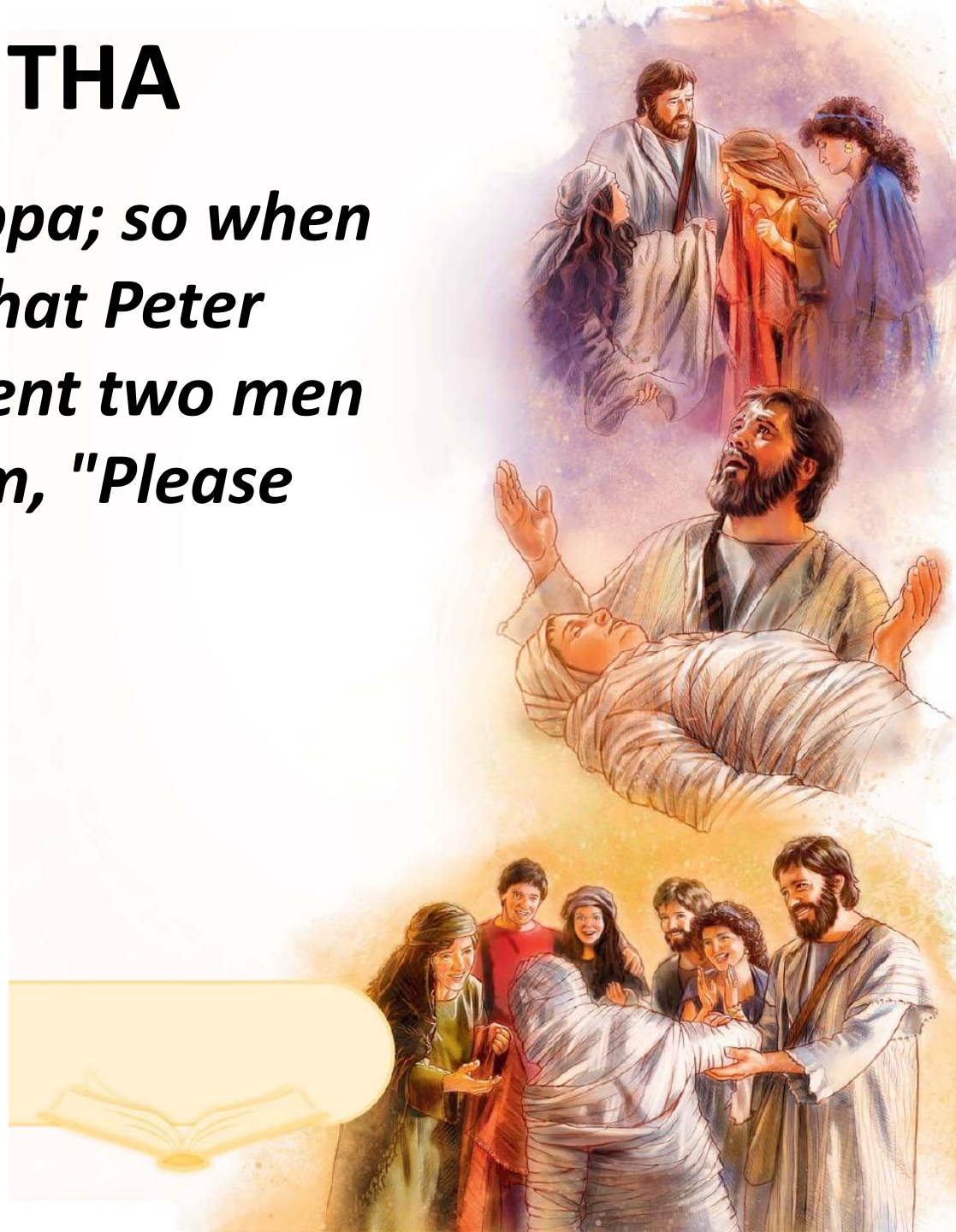
## 3. DIED !

- It must have been a fairly short and 'serious' illness
- Cultural practice at that time – clean, embalm and bury before sunset ??
- ?? Exception ....
- Even so – Q: Why 'upstairs' ?

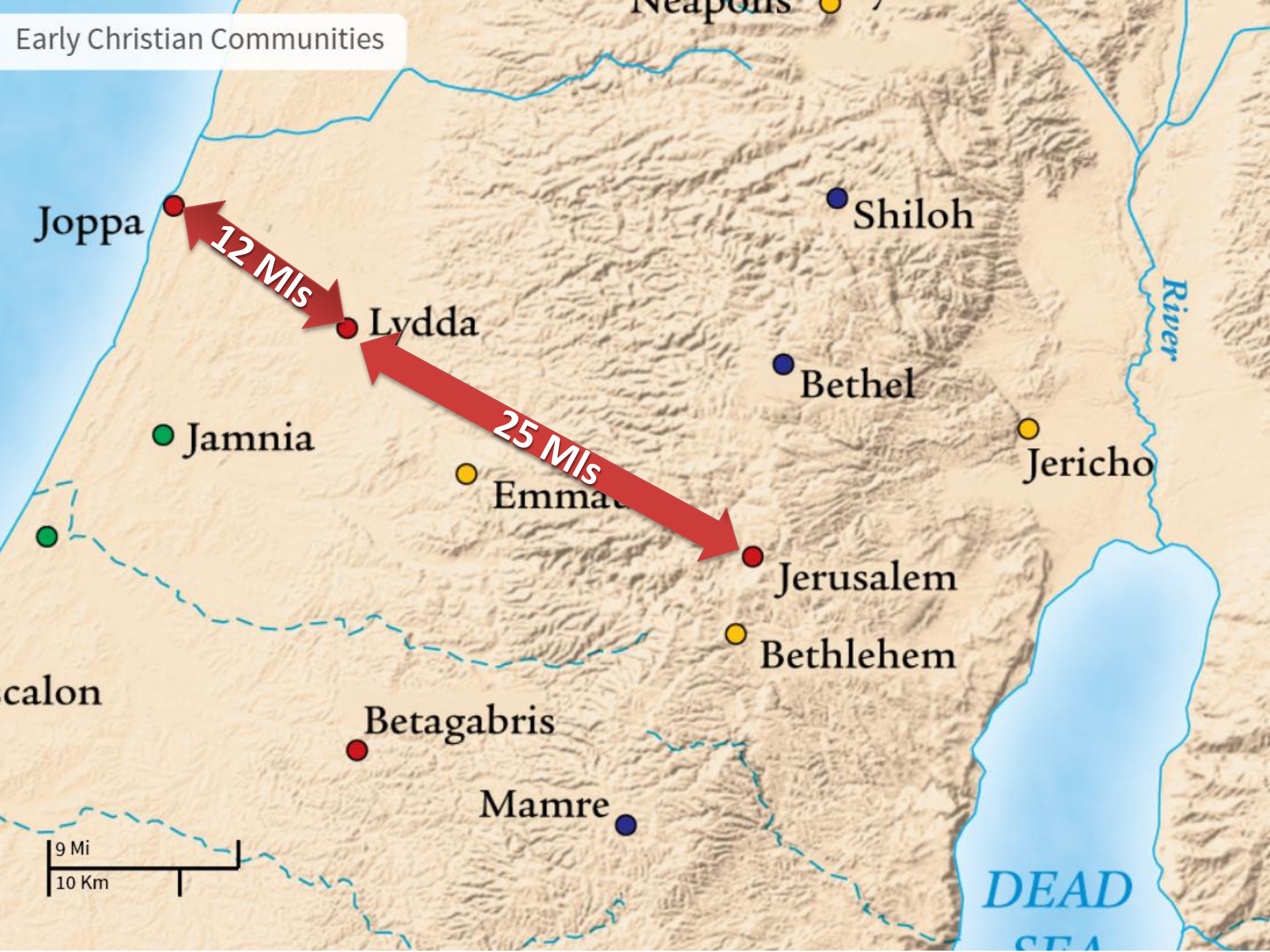


# DORCAS ak TABITHA

***v<sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"***



Early Christian Communities



Joppa

12 Miles

Lydda

Jamnia

Emmaus

25 Miles

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Betragabris

Mamre

Shiloh

Bethel

Jericho

River

DEAD SEA

9 Mi  
10 Km

Galilee

# DORCAS ak TABITHA

*v<sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"*

**Q: Why call Peter ?**

**‘miracle of Aeneas’ ...**

**Q: Were they expecting another ‘miracle’ ?**

**Q: What did they tell Peter ?**



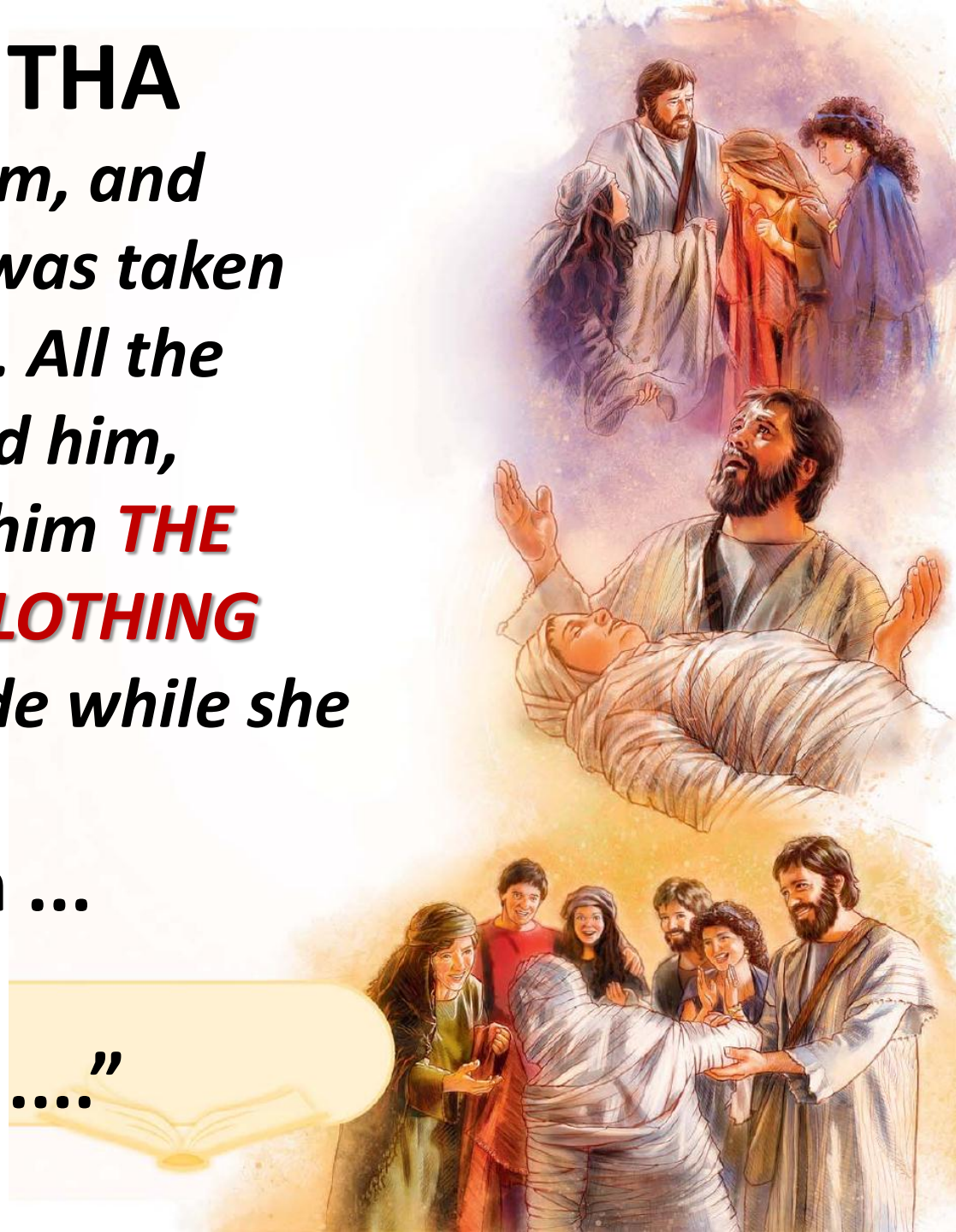


# DORCAS ak TABITHA

*<sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him **THE ROBES** and **OTHER CLOTHING** that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.*

Seeing the situation ...

- “What now ?”
- “Lord please help ....”



# Remember ....

Ref : Mark 5:21-42

Luke 8:41-56

- Jairus daughter ...
- Died ?
- Mourners wailing ...
- “She’s only asleep”
- Cleared the room ...
- “Talitha koum” -  
*‘Little girl, I say to you, get up!’*



So ....

## 4. DO WHAT THE LORD DID ...

*v40 Peter sent them all out of the room;*



V40 cont.

*then he got down on his knees  
and prayed.*

***TURNING TOWARD THE DEAD WOMAN,***

- Which means ....
- Why ??



V40 cont.

*he said, "Tabitha, get up."*

*She opened her eyes, and  
seeing Peter she sat up.*

***"Talitha  
koum"***



v41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.

Then he called ***THE BELIEVERS*** and ***THE WIDOWS*** and presented her to them alive.



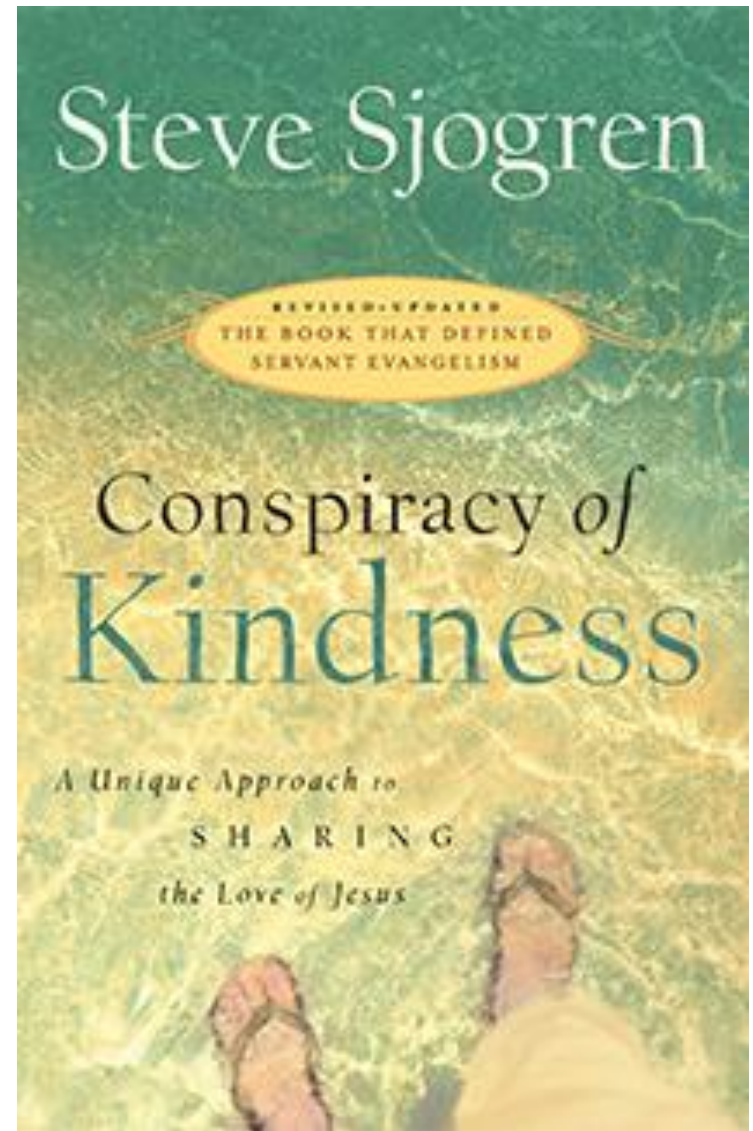
**v42 This became known all over Joppa,  
and many people believed in the Lord.**



# “The Conspiracy of Kindness,” by Steve Sjogren

- < 10% of Christians have the spiritual gift of evangelism,
- 90% have the gift of serving.
- “servant evangelism”  
Or “touching lives”

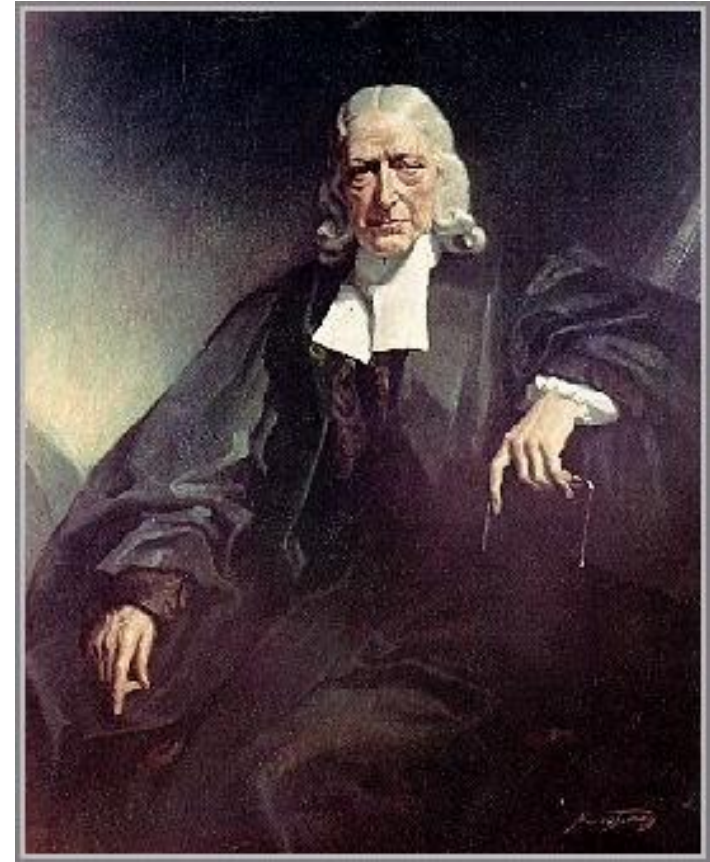
***1 Peter 4:10 “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”***





***We will touch lives IF YOU & I ...***

**“Do all the good we can,  
by all the means we can,  
in all the ways we can,  
in all the places we can,  
at all the times we can,  
to all the people we can,  
as long as we can.”**



# Application : Dorcas - Touching Lives Acts 9:36-43

**“WE NEED a DORCAS”**

**“WE all NEED to be a TABITHA”**

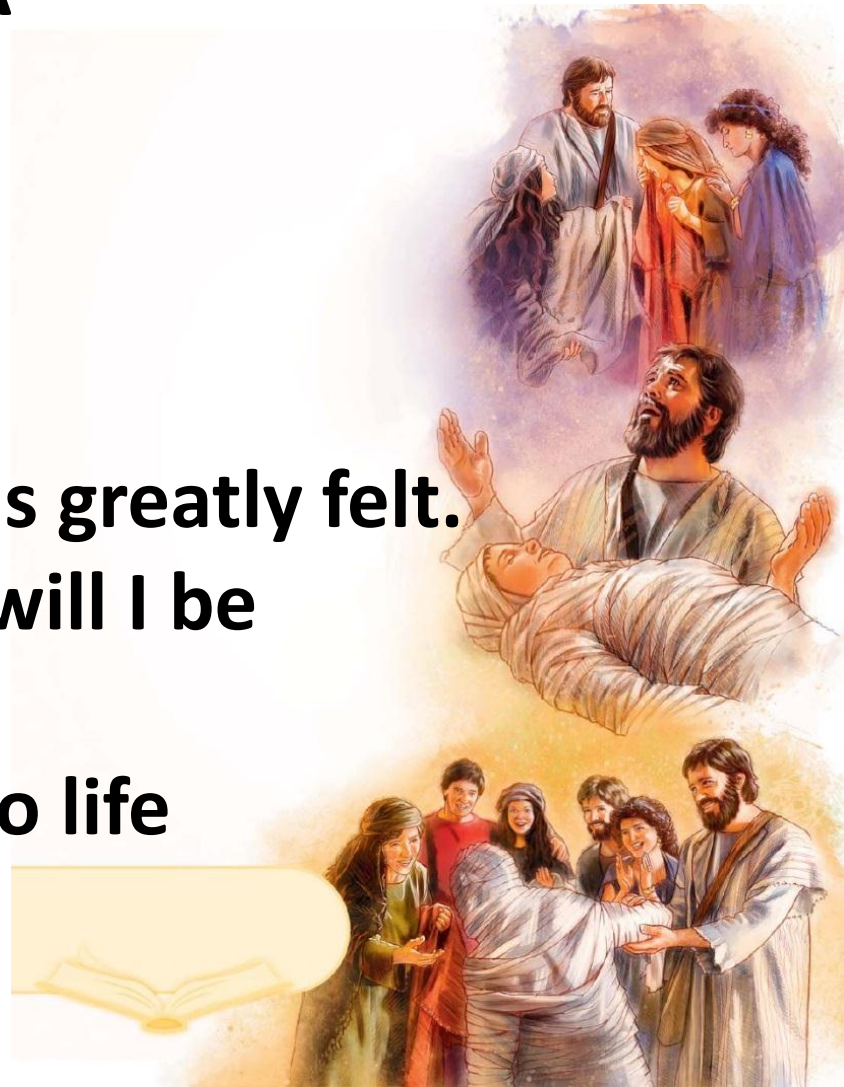
- a **DISCIPLE**
- **DOER OF DEEDS**
- **Heart of Compassion**
- **Self-less ministering ...**
- **When she DIED, her loss was greatly felt.**

**Q : If I should die today, how will I be remembered ??**

- **Wonderfully brought back to life**

**Q : BUT Why Dorcas ?**

**Why not Stephen or ...**



# Who(se) Am I ?



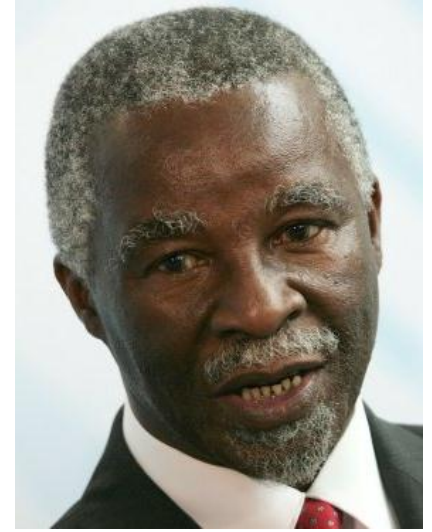
**Rev Ralph David  
Abernathy**



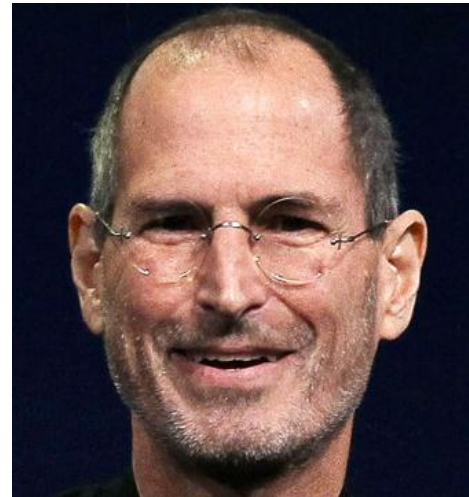
**Sis Nirmala**



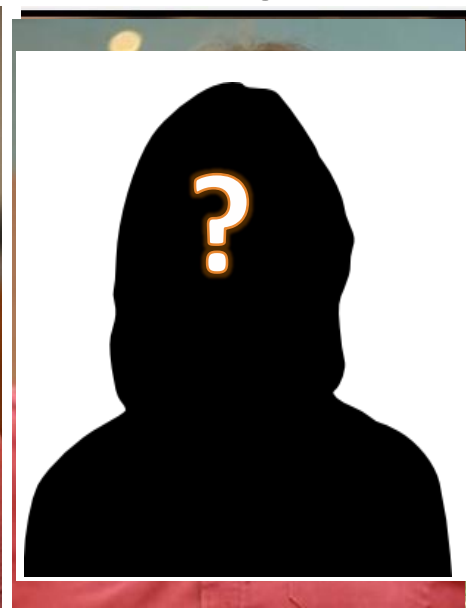
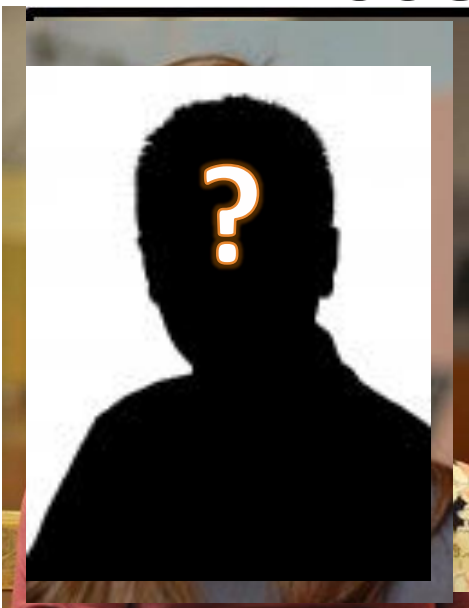
**Tim Cook**



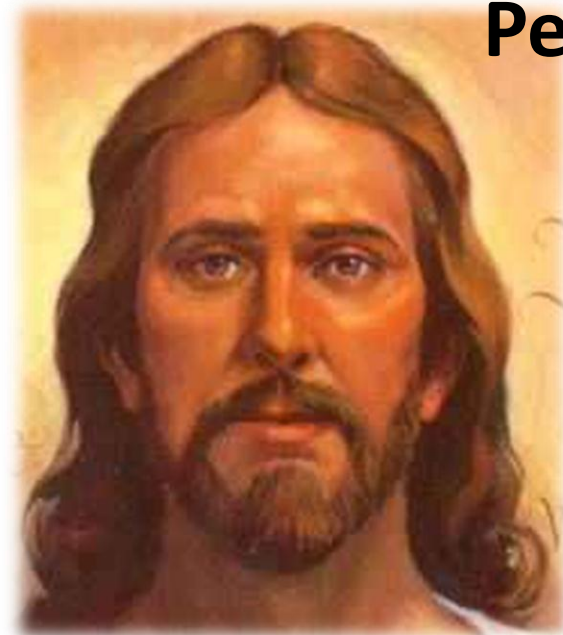
**Thabo Mbeki**



# Whose Am I ?



**God has no  
grandchildren...  
only children!**

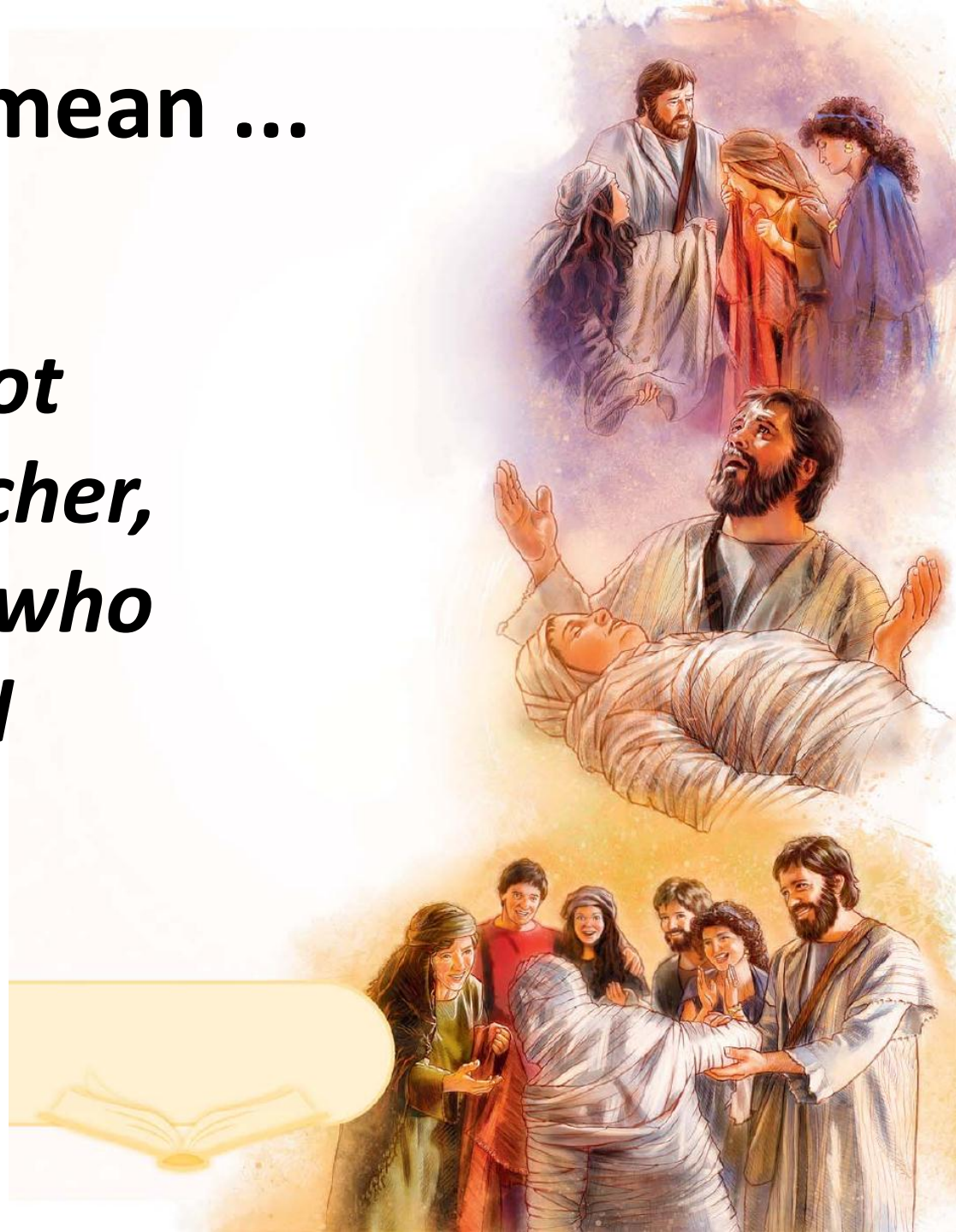


**People seeing 'us' ...  
do they see our  
heavenly Father ?  
Would they know  
WHOSE WE ARE ?**

# What did Jesus mean ...

## in Luke 6:40

*A student is not  
above his teacher,  
but everyone who  
is fully trained  
will be like his  
teacher.*



# What did Jesus mean ?

In John 14:12

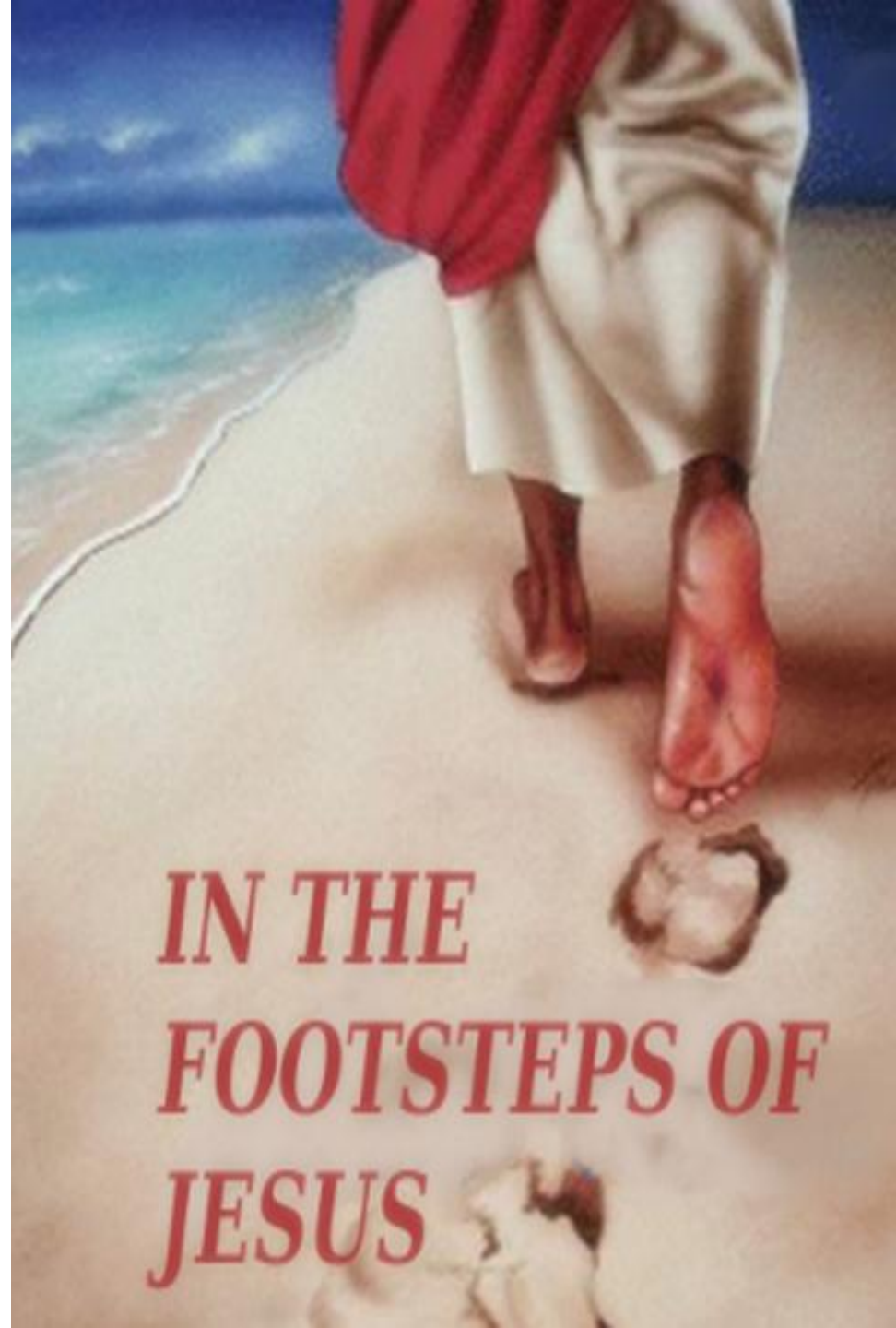
*"I tell you the truth,  
ANYONE who has faith in me  
WILL DO what I have been doing.  
He will do EVEN GREATER THINGS  
than these,  
because I am going to the Father."*

**Let's Write & Meditate on  
John 14:12**



# “We Need A Peter”

- Peter – ‘Main actor’
- God preparing him for a breakthrough’ ...
- Acts 9:32-35 Peter healed Aeneas, 8yrs a paralytic
- Then Dorcas in Joppa...  
*v43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon...*  
? Unclean ...
- Then ...



# Application

*Jesus our Lord ... our Master ...*

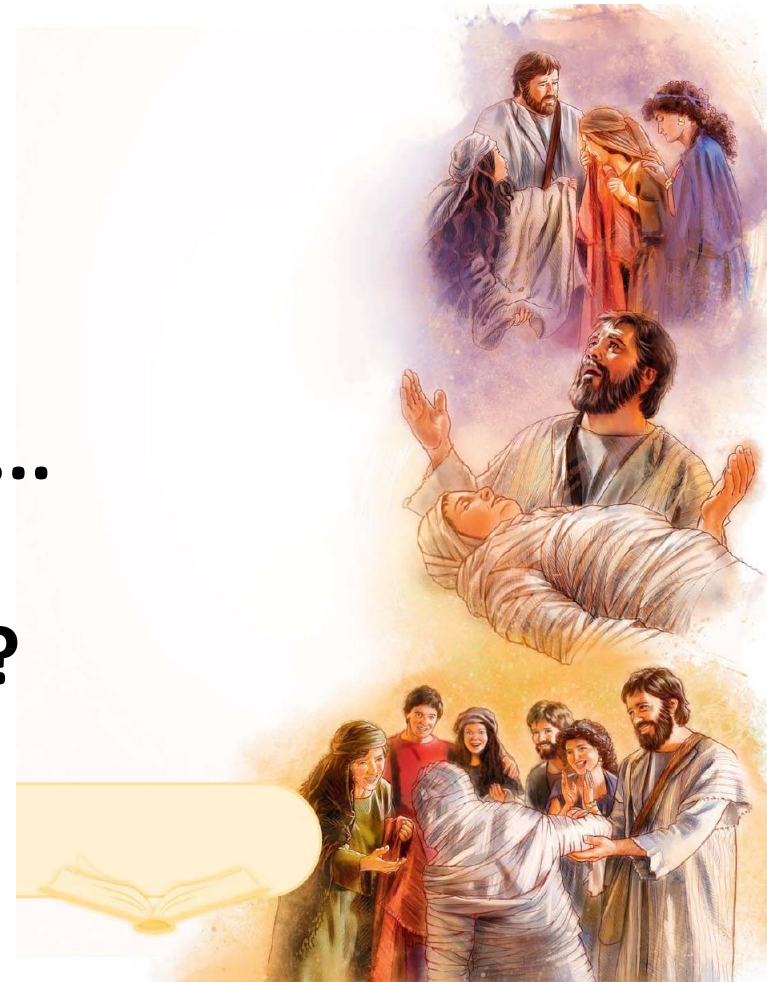
- *Cared...*
- *Taught...*
- *Delivered & Healed...*
- *Touched lives ...*
- *Transform lives ...*

God was 'teaching' Peter ...

God is still 'teaching' today ...

Peter 'imitated' His Lord ...

Are we 'imitating' our Lord ?

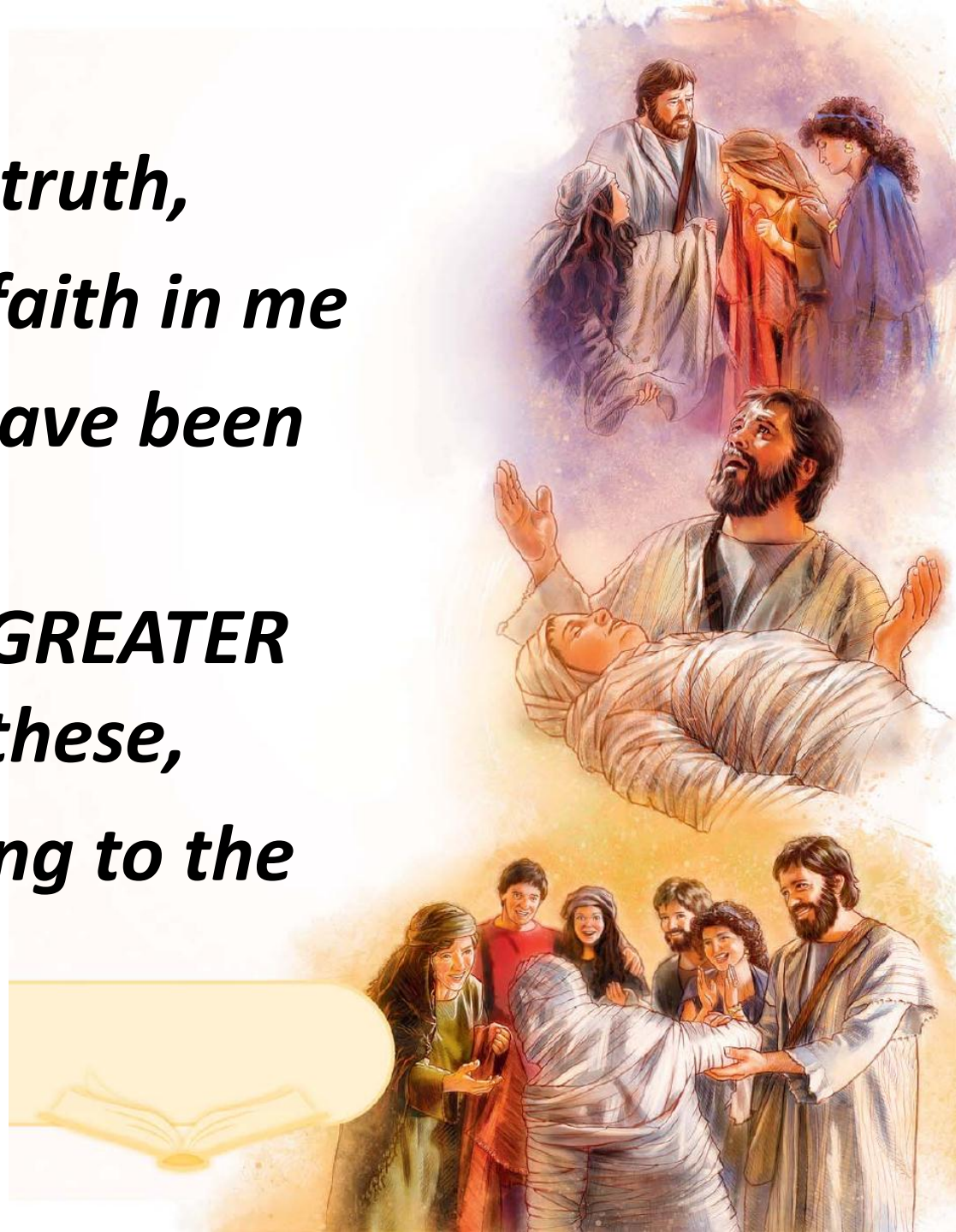




# John 14:12

***“I tell you the truth,  
ANYONE who has faith in me  
WILL DO what I have been  
doing.***

***He will do EVEN GREATER  
THINGS than these,  
because I am going to the  
Father.”***



# Q: Is Healing still for TODAY ?

➤ YES ...

God still heals TODAY

- Just Not Everyone ...

- Just Not Everytime ...

Why some but not others ??

Why then but not now ??

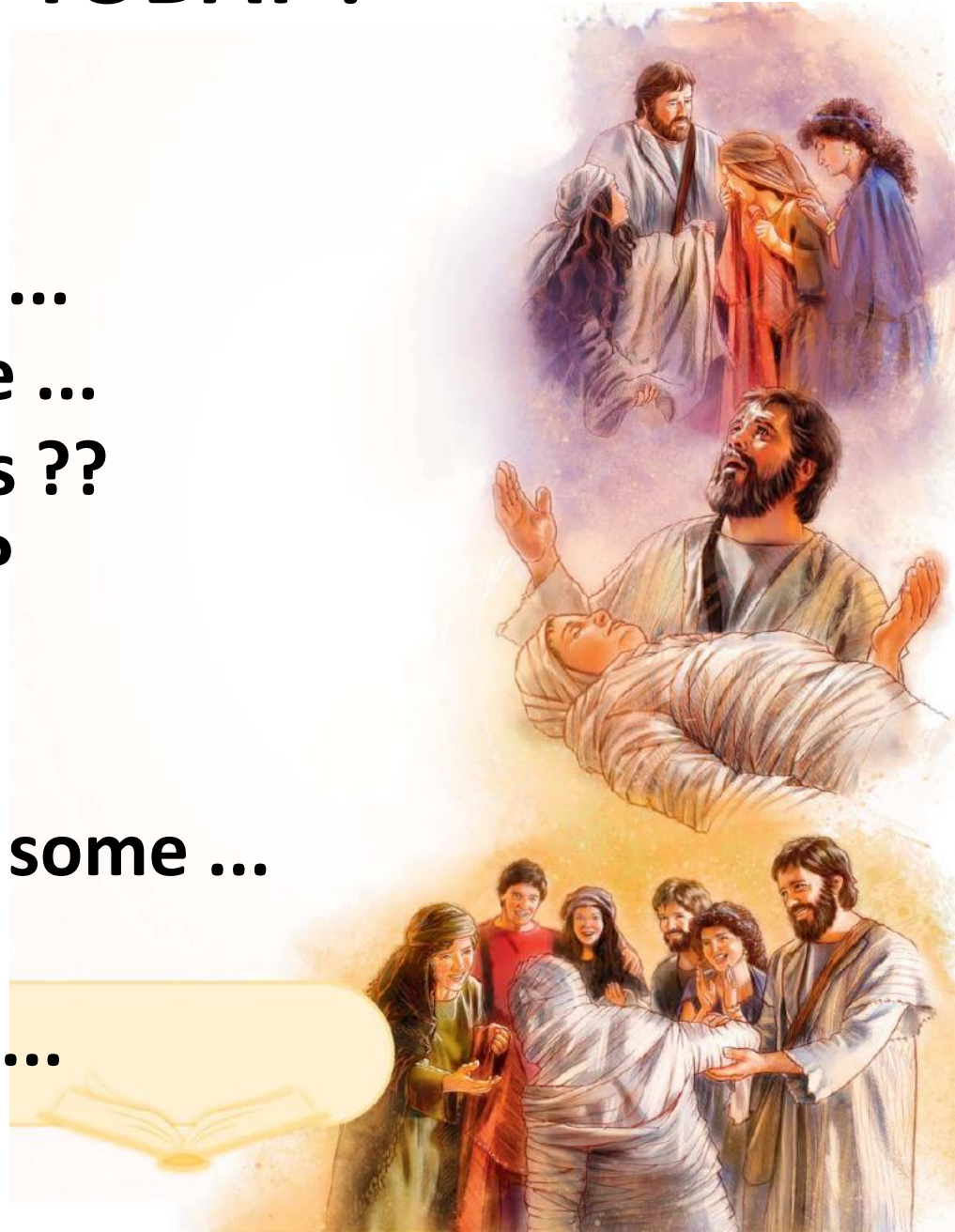
➤ I Do Not Know

Healing in our midst ?

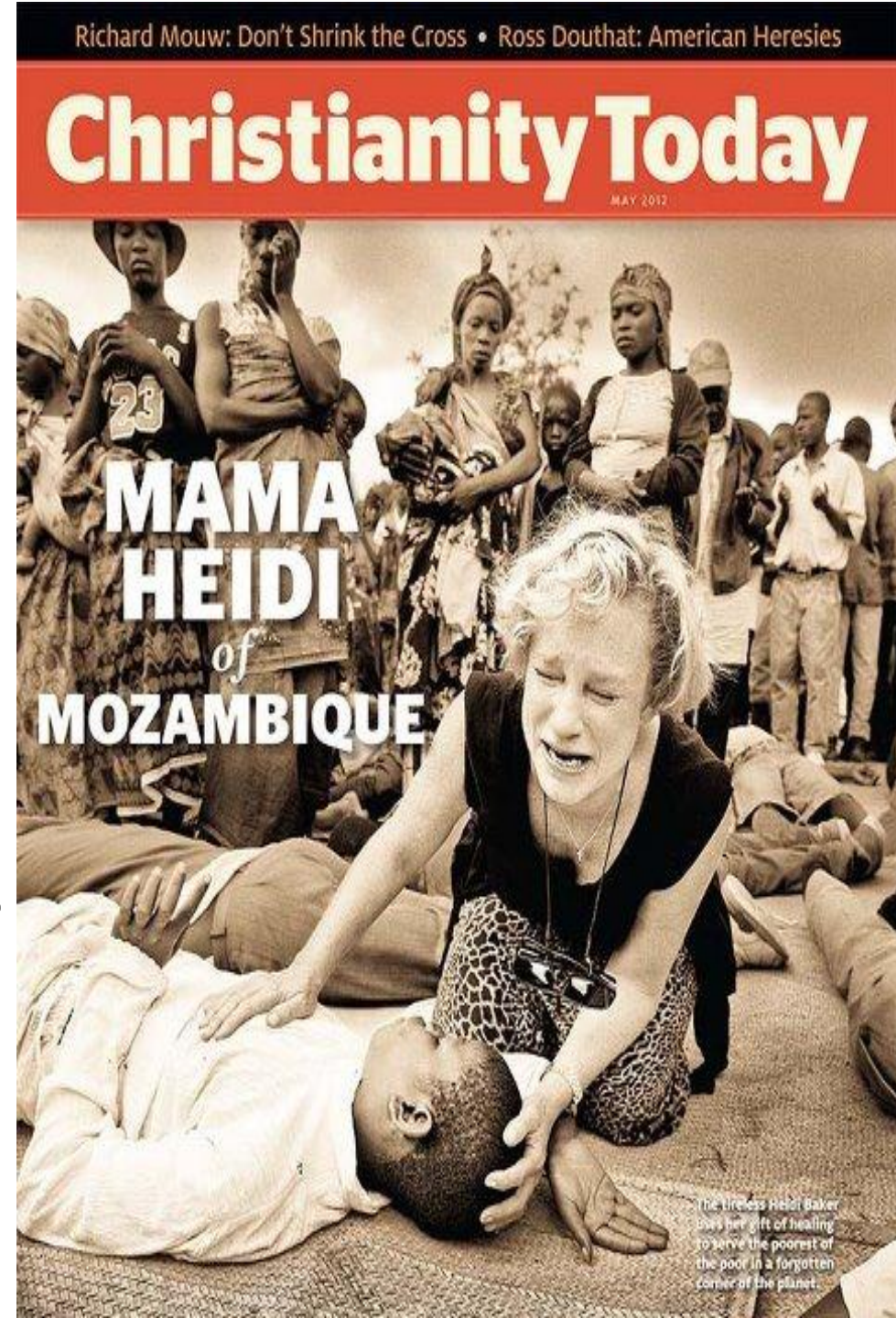
➤ Yes there have been some ...

but not enough ...

“Holy dis-satisfaction” ...



- Good to read about it
- Good to hear about it
- But Nothing like
  - Seeing it upfront
  - Experiencing it in our midst
- There is MORE ...
- There must be MORE of you Lord !!



# Healing in the Gospels & Acts

**Total : 37 accounts**

- **10 occurred with a crowd present**
- **12 in small groups**

**But ...**

- **15 were in 'private settings'**

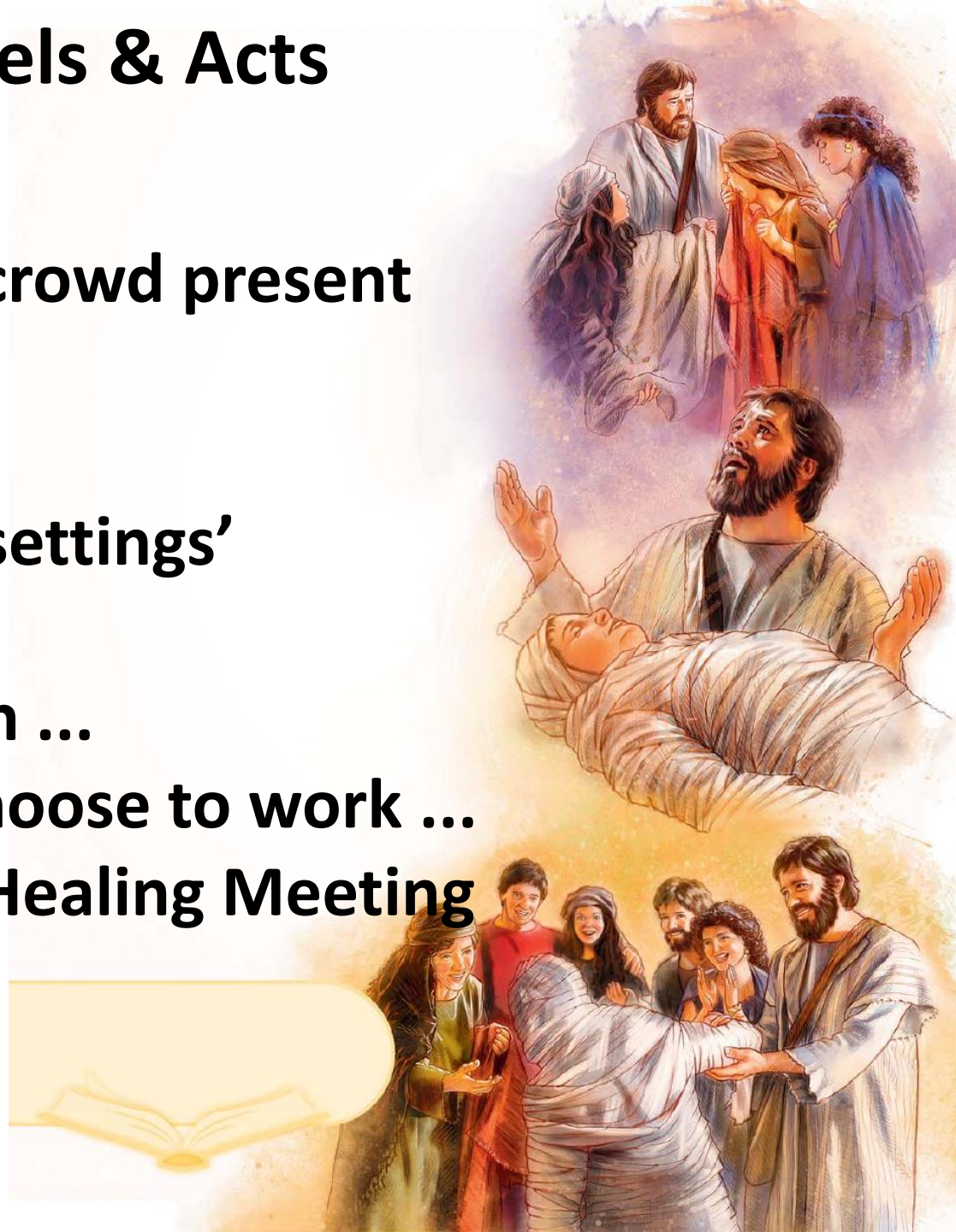
**I Do not know why ?**

**But God is sovereign ...**

**If that's how God choose to work ...**

**Mthly Tuesday Night Healing Meeting**

**...**



# RANDY CLARK'S

teaching at  
School of Healing & Impartation  
DUMC June 2013

## TOPICS

1. Five Step Prayer Model
2. Words of Knowledge
3. Thrill of Victory
4. Agony of Defeat
5. Biblical Basis of Healing

**DVD 1**



**STRICTLY for SSMC in-  
house Training Purpose  
Only.  
NOT FOR GENERAL  
CIRCULATION**



**Teaching DVD  
@ RM5/=**

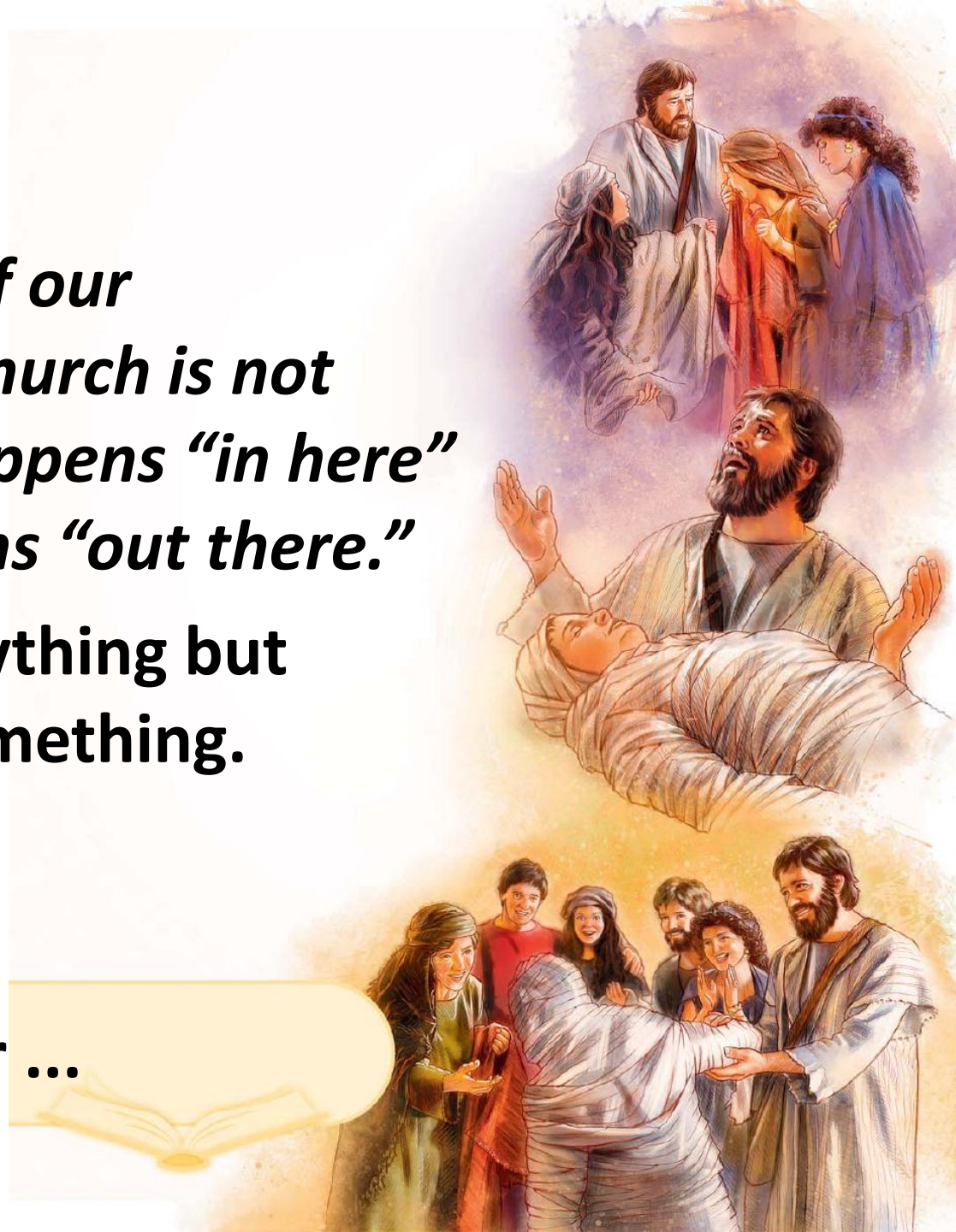
- 1. Five Step Prayer Model**
- 2. Words of Knowledge**
- 3. THRILL OF VICTORY**
- 4. AGONY OF DEFEAT**
- 5. Biblical Basis of Healing**

# Conclusion:

Quote :

*The true measure of our effectiveness as a church is not defined by what happens “in here” but by what happens “out there.”*

- No one can do everything but everyone can do something.
- Let's be a Dorcas or a Tabitha
- Let's also be a Peter ...



# Conclusion:

Theme Verse : 2 Cor 5:14-15

*For Christ's love compels us,  
because we are convinced  
that one died for all, and  
therefore all died.*

*And he died for all, that those  
who live should no longer live  
for themselves but for him  
who died for them and was  
raised again.*

