

The First Female Disciple

After the death of Jesus, I learned recently, there came to be more Disciples, and I think there came to be many more than the original twelve.

Anyway, to my surprise and delight, some, if not many, were women. I never knew that before. I didn't know that until just now (this past week)! I mean of course I knew there are great women of the Bible, I just didn't realize there were Disciples who were women.

1 Chronicles 25:32-42 (NIV)

Aeneas and Dorcas

³² As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴ "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. ³⁵ All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she 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. ³⁸ 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!"

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ 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 for the believers, especially 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.

So, as the father of two amazing daughters I am delighted to find out that Jesus' original followers were succeeded by women as well as by men! Now I'm hoping the pace picks up a bit with the accounts of their contributions. And now I'm even more eager to move forward with my Bible reading!

I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack