

# Sermon Starter – Compassion for “The Least”

*Acts 9:36-43*

## Scripture reading

Invite either one of “the least” or someone who works with the marginalized people in your community to read this story. How might hearing this story in their voice color the congregation’s listening?

## Sermon notes:

Tabitha/Dorcas, a faithful disciple, was filled with compassion for those in need. How can we learn from her example to be released from our self-centered concerns to reach out to “the least”? And who are today’s “least”? Probably the uninsured, the undocumented, the homeless, the addicts, the unwed mothers, those on welfare—all those who have trouble “making it” in our system. We are invited by the Spirit to exercise a new compassion and join Jesus’ work of caring for others. Today’s sermon could call the congregation to imagine and commit to a lifestyle of advocacy for and service to the least. For some great stories of service to and with the poor, check out Shane Claiborne’s “The Irresistible Revolution” or “Jesus For President.”

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