

My Prayer for Today

Lord, give me wisdom to know how I can minister to others and be faithful to You. Make me more like Rhoda.

Sharing

Rhoda participated in a very special prayer group, believers whose petitions were answered miraculously. Could you form a prayer circle of women with related needs or interests—such as widows, new mothers, teen-age girls, or your neighbor women? Perhaps your group could meet weekly to share concerns and blessings, and to pray together.

Women in the Bible:
Rhoda
and me

Faithful Servant Girl



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LESSON



Rhoda

Her Name Means "Rose"

Women in the Bible: Rhoda and Me

Key Scripture: Acts 12:1-19

Introduction

While Rhoda is mentioned only once in the Bible, the event associated with her is important. It gives a glimpse of the religious persecution the early Christians faced, and it reveals the way the New Testament church relied on prayer.

Rhoda is mentioned in the Bible because she attended a prayer meeting of the early church. That prayer meeting was held in the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark. Rhoda, whose name means "rose", was a servant girl, or a slave. She may have been a servant of Mary, who was probably an affluent widow.

Rhoda's story gives us significant insights about the power of prayer. This story shows that God's resources are greater than our expectations, and that no problem is too hard for the Lord to solve.

Discover

- * Her Willingness to Serve
- * Her Steadfastness

Going Deeper

1. What happened to Peter that makes this story almost unbelievable? (Acts 12: 6-11)

2. When Peter knocked at the door of Mary's house, who was sent to answer the door? (Verse 13)

Note: The persecution of Christians at this time required them to be very careful when they answered their doors. So they inquired as to who was at the door as a matter of protection for themselves and all within their household.

3. When she heard who it was, how did Rhoda react? (Verse 14)

4. What did the people say to her when she told them who was at the door? (Verse 15)

5. How did Rhoda react to their disbelief? (Verse 15)

6. When Peter kept knocking, they finally opened the door. What was the reaction of the believers who had been praying? (Verse 16)

Note: We don't have any record about how Rhoda came to be a servant in Mary's home. However, we can assume she too loved Peter because she was joined with the believers in prayer for him. Perhaps she had heard him speak and thereby had learned to love the Lord and was also a follower of Christ. It is easy to understand her excitement and joy when she heard Peter at the door.

Words for Today

7. Does prayer work? How important should it be in our lives? What responsibility do Christians have to pray for each other?

8. What can I take from the story of Rhoda and apply to my life? Will I choose to be faithful and willing to be a servant, or would I rather be prominent?

Note: Bible commentators write that since Rhoda was still at work late at night and was praying with the believers indicates that she was a faithful servant and also one of those who loved Peter and believed.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is my response when I receive affirmative answers to my earnest prayers? What about when God seems to say no, or I feel He does not even hear me?
2. What are some of the purposes of prayer?

Words of Wisdom

Few words are written about Rhoda; however, as we study her brief story we find that she was a young woman who was faithful. Many of life's

most important lessons are learned as we observe those who are unassuming and not well known. Rhoda was one of these people. The Bible has many promises for those who are faithful. In Matthew 10:42 (NIV) Jesus tells us: "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." The reward that shall be given is found in Revelations 2:10 (last part): "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

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