Sermon: **Tabitha, get up** (Acts 9.40)

A female has died, is lying in a room crowded with mourners. The man of God turns out the crowd, and talks to the body. At which point the female comes back to life and everyone rejoices. What is the story?

Jairus’ daughter - Talitha koum (Mk 5.41) or Peter in Joppa - Tabitha, get up! (Acts 9.40)?

The stories are very similar (some think they are the same), yet they are very different – one is a girl, the other a woman; in one everyone knows the child is dead, in the other they hope for a miracle.

The Tabitha story is about how the ministry of Jesus carries on in the early church through Peter and Tabitha.

Peter is copying Jesus: eg Acts 3 & lame man at Temple, in Lydda Peter heals a paralysed man.

Of course Jesus never made garments like Tabitha, yet she was clearly doing Jesus’ ministry.

How does the ministry of Jesus carry on in Riverton today?

Do we copy Jesus – wearing sandals and walking on water…!?

Is carrying on the ministry of Jesus a matter of substance or style? ie. Is it about what we do or about the motives for what we do? For example should we be serving widows and orphans, or their equivalents?

Our ministry might be to the community or within the church. It can be both.

It can be in the political/justice arena – apartheid in the 70s/80s; what about today?

It might be in social arena – the encouraging male role models in lower decile schools.

It might be very practical – Tabitha, second hand goods, meals for the bereaved, shopping with the wheelchair bound, or gardening for the elderly.

Psalm 23 – the Lord in my shepherd, I shall not want – not just about spiritual wants.

Whatever it is, we too are called to carry on Jesus, ministry, here in Riverton. So TEXT.