

individuals mentioned who helped were Joseph-Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus (Acts 4:36, 37), and Tabitha (Dorcas) who was known for her garment-making (Acts 9:36, 39).

Other examples of those saints who distinguished themselves as workers of good deeds are the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet (Luke 7:38), the woman who anointed the head of Jesus (Matt 26:10; identified in John 12:3-8 as Mary who anointed him for his burial),<sup>19</sup> Joseph of Arimathea who provided a tomb for Jesus (Matt 27:57-60) and who with Nicodemus prepared Jesus' body for burial (John 19:38-40), and also some of the women disciples prepared to do the same (Mark 16:1; Luke 23:55-24:1). Zacchaeus, upon his conversion, is depicted as one who would give generously to the needs of the poor (Luke 19:8), and, by inference, we gather that after Matthew met the Lord, he began to supply the physical needs of those despised or less fortunate than he (Matt 9:9-11). Moses is a man known for his mighty deeds and words (Acts 7:22), Dorcas for her millinery work (Acts 9:36), Anna for her service in the temple (Luke 2:37), and Paul for his continual service to God (Acts 24:14, 27:23) and man (as a tent-maker, Acts 15:3), and one who provided for his own needs and the needs of others (Acts 20:34; 28:30).

Above all, the saints are to be those who live by the truth, who come into the light and demonstrate clearly that their deeds have been "done through God" (John 3:21); thus in heeding God's instructions they are assured that they can do well (Acts 15:29). Jesus promises that, "Anyone who has faith in me will do (τὰ ἔργα) what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12). And having been faithful to the Lord in the exercise of their duty, the saints can look forward through God's grace to bring to completion the work which he has given them to do (Acts 14:26).

### **The Goals, Methods, and Accomplishments of Work**

A good deal is said in the Gospels and Acts regarding the goals, methods, and accomplishments of work. The work activities described center around the buying-selling, profit-loss theme, the obligations motif, and the theme of sharing the results of one's labor with others.

Prominent in the fabric of the Gospels and Acts is the buying-selling, profit-payment motif. This is emphasized through the use of several Greek words. One is πωπέσκω whose basic meaning is "sell";<sup>20</sup> its emphasis can be on value (selling all to buy a pearl, Matt 13:45, 46) and profit (as in selling for a huge price a product like the expensive perfume which had been used to anoint the body of Jesus, Matt 26:9; Mark 14:5; John 12:5). The word is also used in Acts for the selling of real estate, lands and houses (Acts 4:34; 5:2) and other kinds of possessions and goods (τὰ κτήματα καὶ τὰς ὑπάρξεις Acts 2:45). In one instance, the word is used in a story told about a creditor's intent to sell his debtor's wife and children into human slavery, an event which transpired many times in that society. ἀποδίδωμι is also used once in our literature to indicate a slavery transaction (Acts 7:9). In Acts 5:8, however, ἀποδίδωμι is used for the