



# **Paul and Lydia**

**Acts 16:11-15**

**Commander Cosmos stared at the wires overhead. The mission to planet Macedonia was very successful. Many were saved from their sins and gave their hearts to Jesus. Now, while on their way back to Planet Pharis to pick up Lieutenant Ruby, the engines were stalling. He connected his diagnostic tool. The machine beeped three times and then flashed a message. "Where am I going to find another Solar focalizer in this remote part of the galaxy?" he frowned. He had sent out a distress signal, but as of yet, no one had responded."**

**Suddenly, the computer announced, "Incoming message, incoming message!"**

**"Oh good! Maybe it's help!" the Commander said as he hoisted himself up through the trapdoor in the floor of the Transporter Room. Nofutu's face appeared on the screen.**

**"Hello, Commander Cosmos! Boogah, boogah, Konga-loosh!" Nofutu greeted.**

**"Oh it's you, Ambassador! I thought it was going to be somebody who could help us."**

**Nofutu nodded. "Oh, you! You are a funky, junky, joker monkey! I bring you help. I have a special friend who has agreed to let you dock on his service barge. He will help you repair Skylab Omega!"**

**Cosmos smiled. "A floating service station in space? That's great! Who is your friend?"**

**"It's a surprise!" Nofutu laughed. "I am sending him to you right away. Prepare your Teleport! Over and out! Konga-loosh!"**

**Commander Cosmos stood up and promptly tripped into the trapdoor he had carelessly left open. "Oh no! This is a terrible position to be in!" he groaned as Yago shimmered into view and then strode out of the transport tube.**

**Yago folded his arms and observed the Commander struggling inside the hole in the floor. "Ah, Commander Cosmos. Hard at work as usual, I see."**

**"A little help?" Commander Cosmos reached out his hand, which Yago grabbed. Yago yanked him back onto the transport room floor. "Thank you. So, Captain Yago, what are you doing here? I thought Nofutu said he was sending a friend."**

**"We have become good friends," Yago replied. "Where is the malfunctioning part?"**

**Commander Cosmos pointed to the part. "I can't picture you and Nofutu being friends."**

**Yago picked up the broken focalizer and looked at it closely. "He makes me laugh."**

**Commander Cosmos stared. "But he's so outgoing and friendly and you're so...unpleasant."**

**Yago glared at the commander. "That's a fine greeting for the man who came to rescue you. I'm a master mechanic and I can fix this ship."**

**"I thought you didn't like foreign ships passing through your quadrant," said Cosmos.**

**"All the more reason to get you fixed up so we can get rid of you," sneered Yago.**

**"Ah Yago, you sure know how to make a guy feel loved," Cosmos replied. "But I'm so glad you responded to my message. That reminds me of something I just read about Lydia."**

**"I'm afraid to ask. Who is Lydia?" Yago asked without looking up from his work.**

**"I'm glad you asked. Her story is right here in Acts 16." Cosmos opened the Bible and read, "At this time, Paul and his friends were traveling to a colony named Philippi."**

**"That is where our service station is located. It orbits planet Philippi," Yago mentioned.**

**"That was also the name of the place Lydia lived. Isn't it funny how God works?"**

**Yago shrugged. "It's probably just a coincidence."**

**"I don't think so. You see, Paul and his friends went to a river just outside of town so they could pray and who do you think they met?" Yago shrugged again. Cosmos explained, "It was Lydia! Lydia and a group of women were gathered at the river and Paul began to speak to them."**

**Yago twisted a gasket with a large wrench. "So, what did this woman do?"**

**"I'll let you read it in the Virtual Bible," Commander Cosmos tapped a few buttons.**

**"One of those listening was a woman named Lydia," Yago read, "a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message." Yago looked confused. "Respond? How did she respond?"**

**"Well it says that she and her whole family were baptized. That means that after hearing Paul's message, they believed in Jesus as Lord and wanted to be baptized as a sign that they belonged to Him," Cosmos answered.**

**Yago was still confused. "But she already was a worshiper of God. What's the difference?"**

**"Paul's message was always about showing people that Jesus is God's Son, the Lord. Lydia did worship God, but now she made Jesus the Lord of her life. Now she would live her life to serve Him. And there's more. She also responded by inviting Paul and his friends to stay in her home. This helped Paul in his mission to spread God's Word. All because God opened her heart when He had her in the right place at the right time!" Commander Cosmos finished triumphantly.**

**"That was just a coincidence," Yago insisted. "Perhaps, she had gone to the river to dye her cloth purple."**

**"You call it coincidence. I call it God's plan. God brought Lydia and Paul together and then opened Lydia's heart to Paul's message about Jesus," Cosmos said patiently.**

**"God's plan, don't make me laugh." Yago added, "Even so, I do like this Lydia. She was a doer, not just a listener. She was a woman of action!"**

**"That's right. The Lord opened her heart to respond, and she did! Just as you responded to my message for help," Cosmos said.**

**Yago waved the wrench in his face. "Are you calling me a frilly, fabric dealer?!"**

**"No, I'm saying that God is the one who opens our hearts to respond," Cosmos corrected.**

**Yago just shook his head. "You are always talking about this God."**

**"Once you experience the love of God you can't help but talk about Him," Commander Cosmos explained. "I notice you keep coming back to hear more."**

**"I just..." Yago paused, "...came to help."**

**Commander Cosmos looked at him. "Maybe. And maybe someday you'll respond."**

**"Respond? How? By serving your Jesus?" Yago sneered as he boarded the teleport.**

**"It could happen," Commander Cosmos called out as he watched Yago disappear to pick up the replacement part from the service barge. Cosmos finished his sentence aloud to himself, "After all, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever!"**