



# **Peter and Tabitha**

**Acts 9:36-42**

**"Commander Cosmos is arriving," the computer voice announced. The crew of the Skylab Omega stood and saluted.**

**The door slid open and Commander Cosmos entered. "Thank you, thank you!" he said, before promptly stumbling over a chair. Bouncing upright as if nothing happened, he said, "I meant to do that! At ease," the commander continued. "I have a special announcement to make. We have successfully completed our visit to the planet of Jerusalem. We are now heading due east for the planet Joppa."**

**Gasps rose from the crew. "Planet Joppa?" Lieutenant Ruby Starlight questioned, her face turning as white as a sheet. "But, isn't that in the Degobah system?"**

**"As a matter of fact it is," Cosmos calmly confirmed. "Very good, Lieutenant."**

**"But Commander, that whole quadrant is patrolled by the Pharisees from Planet Pharis!"**

**Cosmos nodded. "So, it is."**

**"But, they're our sworn enemies!" Ruby added.**

**Commander Cosmos shrugged. "That's their choice, not mine."**

**"But, but, Commander, we could be captured or tortured or worse!"**

**Commander Cosmos looked around at his crew. "Our mission is to carry God's Word to the entire universe. We have been called to visit Planet Joppa and we shall answer that call."**

**"But, aren't you afraid to travel into enemy territory?" Ruby pressed.**

**Commander Cosmos smiled and asked the computer to display Romans 8:15 on the huge Ready Room screen. "Listen to what the Bible says, 'For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.'"**

**Ruby looked down at the floor. "I guess you're right, sir."**

**"Of course, I'm right," Commander Cosmos assured. "I'm quoting the promises of God and God always keeps his promises!"**

**"Sir, how do you always manage to point everything that happens back to the Lord?"**

**"Because, everything points to Jesus," Commander Cosmos declared.**

**"You mean miracles?" Ruby asked.**

**"I mean everything!" Commander Cosmos clarified. "Miracles, everyday occurrences, and even the way we live our lives. It all points to Jesus. Tabitha could have told you that."**

**Ruby looked up. "Tabitha? Is she in the Bible?"**

**"She is," said the commander. "Tabitha lived in Joppa. She was a follower of Jesus and she was always doing good things and helping the poor. But, she became sick and died."**

**The entire crew groaned. "Oh, why did you tell us that?" asked Ruby sadly.**

**"It's important to the story," Commander Cosmos explained. "Peter was in a nearby town, so they sent a couple of guys to ask him to come to her house."**

**"Is this the same Peter? The fisherman who was friends with Jesus?" Ruby asked.**

**"Yes," Cosmos replied. He asked the computer to display Acts 9:36-42 in the Virtual Bible. "Peter was one of the original twelve disciples. When he got to her house, all the widows were crying and showing him all of the robes and clothing that Dorcas had made."**

**Ruby raised her hand. "Wait, who's Dorcas?"**

**"That's another name for Tabitha," Commander Cosmos replied. "The point is, everyone loved her. She made beautiful clothes and gave them to people. She had a reputation for helping people and they all missed her."**

**Ruby shrugged. "Well, that's sad but there wasn't much Peter could do about it."**

**"Oh, but there was," Commander Cosmos assured. "Peter sent them all out of the room and knelt down and prayed. Then, he turned to her and said, 'Tabitha, get up!'"**

**Several crew members gasped. "He told a dead lady to get up?!" Ruby asked. Commander Cosmos nodded yes. "And did anything happen?"**

**Commander Cosmos read the Bible words on the screen, "She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up."**

**"Wow! That's just like when Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead!" said Ruby.**

**"Peter was becoming more like Jesus," Commander Cosmos explained. "Remember, Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would give us power to do greater miracles than He had done."**

**"But, why would God bring Tabitha back to life?" Ruby wondered.**

**"God does everything for a reason—to bring glory to Himself so more people will follow Him. This was a chance for so many to see the power of the Lord." Commander Cosmos turned**

**back to the screen and read, "This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord."**

**"So, the way to get people to give their heart to Jesus is to perform a great miracle!" Ruby concluded. Commander Cosmos shook his head no. "But, you said people believed in the Lord because of Tabitha's miracle."**

**"They did," Cosmos agreed, "but people also believed in Jesus because they knew one of His followers was really kind to them, made clothes for them, helped the poor—"**

**"I see what you're saying!" Ruby jumped in. "They saw the kindness of Jesus in her life. Miracles are important—"**

**Commander Cosmos inserted, "Miracles change people's lives."**

**"But, when we live our lives for Jesus, everything we do points others to Him!" Ruby exclaimed.**

**"Everything about us points others to Jesus. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, people can't miss Him," Commander Cosmos confirmed.**

**Lt. Ruby grinned. "Wow! I've got the Holy Spirit living in me. So, I can point people to Jesus just like Tabitha did! Computer, send an interstellar message please."**

**"Aye, aye, Lieutenant," came the computer voice.**

**Ruby stood tall and spoke firmly, "Attention friends and Pharisees, Skylab Omega will be spreading God's Word throughout your galaxy. All are welcome to come aboard and hear about the power of our Lord. Your friend, Lieutenant Ruby Starlight." The entire crew broke into loud cheering and applause.**

**Commander Cosmos smiled and saluted Ruby. "It sounds like the Holy Spirit has made you bold, just like Peter."**

**Ruby Starlight returned the salute, then led the crew in saluting God by saying together, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"**