



COURAGEOUS

CHRISTIANS

Courageous Christians: Tabitha

Amazing Acts of Faith *(taken from Acts chapter 9)*

Peter was busy teaching and helping people understand the amazing message of Jesus. The Holy Spirit continued to strengthen him and he spoke with courage and kindness wherever he went. One day, he travelled to visit a new church in Lydda. There he met a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had not been able to get out of bed for eight years.

“Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus makes you well. Get up and make your bed.” At once Aeneas got up. All the people living in Lydda saw him, and they gave their lives to Jesus.

In Joppa, a town nearby, there was a woman named Tabitha, who was already a Christian. (Her name means “strong and gentle like a deer.”) She spent all her time making clothes for others and making sure everyone had enough to wear to keep them warm and dry. Everyone loved Tabitha – she was kind, gentle and she often spent time courageously sharing the good news about Jesus with others.

One day, Tabitha felt unwell. But she carried on serving and helping others, sharing the cloth she had. The next day, she felt worse. “You should rest, Tabitha,” her friends told her. “Go home and rest. Let us help you now.”

Tabitha did go home and rest. The next day, she was so ill that she couldn’t get out of bed. Her friends came to sit with her and brought her some fruit but she got worse and worse. Then, just a few days after she had first felt unwell, she died. Her friends were so sad. Tabitha, their strong and gentle friend, had died! Her friends carefully washed her body and laid it in an upstairs room.

Now Joppa was not very far from Lydda, and when the believers in Joppa heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him with the message, “Please hurry and come to us. Something awful has happened.”



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So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, he was taken to the room upstairs, where all her friends crowded around him, crying and showing him all the shirts and coats that Tabitha had made while she was alive. Peter asked them all to go out of the room, and he knelt down in the quiet and prayed to God's Holy Spirit. Then Peter knew what God wanted him to do!

Peter turned to Tabitha's body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Peter reached over and helped her get up. Then he called all the believers, including Tabitha's friends, and presented her alive to them. They were all overjoyed! They laughed and danced and sang God's praises and the whole town knew what a wonderful thing God had done. Their courageous friend Tabitha had been brought back to them! The news about this spread all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.