

Second Chances

Bible Treasure: Acts 9:36-43

There were beautiful quilts laid out in Tabitha's living room. She had a special gift for being generous, and she would sew quilts, clothes, and blankets for people in her town. She was a friend and helper to poor people. Tabitha was also known as Dorcas. She lived in a town called Joppa, which was a busy port by the sea. Many boats came to Joppa with visitors.

Tabitha was known as an apostle or helper of Jesus because of the love she had shown making clothes for those who needed them. "Hey, Tabitha, thanks again for that pretty scarf you made for me," said a visitor standing outside her door.

"No problem; I just want everyone to have what they need," said Tabitha. Everyone loved Tabitha. She welcomed everyone into her home with a warm meal and a gift of something she made. If a family didn't have enough money to buy new clothes, Tabitha made sure to help by making clothes for some of these families. Many people were encouraged and thankful for someone like Tabitha. God gave Tabitha not just a gift of hospitality but also the gift of sewing. Tabitha loved God and loved people.

One day Tabitha got very sick. She got worse and worse, and the doctor could not find any medicine to help her get better. After a while Tabitha died. What



a shock it was to those who loved her. Everyone in that town was heartbroken and cried. Her body was washed and prepared for burial.

Meanwhile, some people heard that Peter was nearby in another town. Some of the people remembered that Jesus' disciples not only healed but also brought people back to life. They believed that Peter could bring Tabitha back to life. They sent some men to find Peter and ask him to come to help them. "Peter, please come as fast as you can; Tabitha has died!" they said. Peter went with the men, and when he got there, he went upstairs to the

room where Tabitha was lying. "I need all of you to leave the room, please," Peter said. He knelt and prayed to God. Then he looked at Tabitha and said, "Get up!" Tabitha opened her eyes and got off the bed. As she walked out of the room, everyone looked with amazement and praised God.

"A miracle from God has happened. Tabitha is alive!" they said.

The people started telling everyone what Peter had done through the power of God, and many started to believe in Jesus. God brought Tabitha back to life to show how marvelous He is.

IT'S YOUR TURN

- What good things can you do to help others in your community or church? Maybe you could pick up trash at a park, help the needy by donating money with the help of your parent, or give away clothes that you don't need anymore.
- How is helping the poor and needy a good way to witness?