

“Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are those who keep their promises, even when it hurts.”

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By Rebecca Enney

Life is full of so many good Times. But sometimes there are hard times that come. Jesus taught us that even in those hard times, we have God’s blessing. Today’s lesson says Blessed are those who mourn. When you mourn, it is one of those hard times.

Mrs. Potato Head is mourning today. She didn’t even go to church this morning. She woke up very, very sad. Today is the anniversary of the day that Mr. Potato Head died, years ago. Even though it was years ago and even though she has some really good friends, she still misses Mr. Potato Head terribly. And so, when she heard her alarm clock this morning, she turned it off, and decided to stay in bed. She buried her head in her pillow and cried and cried. She was all alone where no one could hear her or see her and she mourned for Mr. Potato Head. And she didn’t go to church. Blessed are those who mourn.

When Uncle Floyd saw that Mrs. Potato Head was not at church, he immediately knew why. So he leaned over to Barabas and whispered “I reckon we will go visit with her as soon as church is over.” Barabas said “Yes, I will go.”

And then it was time for the passing of the peace. Sam and Barabas always pass the peace to each other. And this morning when they shook hands, Sam said “Peace to you Barabas (and can you come over to play video games this afternoon)?” And just that quick, Barabas forgot about Mrs. Potato Head and he said “And also with you. (yeah!).”

As soon as church was over, Barabas asked Uncle Floyd “Can I go over to Sam’s now?” Uncle Floyd looked at Barabas and said “I reckon you forgot. You promised to go to Mrs. Potato Head’s with me.”

Barabas closed his eyes and was angry. But he said nothing. He really, really wanted to go to Sam’s. He really, really wanted to go to Sam’s. Blessed are those who keep their promises, even when it hurts.

And so it was that Uncle Floyd and Barabas showed up at Mrs. Potato Head’s door with a box of pizza and a Parcheesi game.

Uncle Floyd set the game up on her dresser and he got the pizza out. Mrs. Potato Head reluctantly got out of bed. Barabas usually picks the red players for Parcheesi, but Mrs. Potato Head picked red so Barabas picked the blue ones. Uncle Floyd picked the yellow players.

As the game progressed, Barabas kept landing on the same space as one of Uncle Floyd’s players. That means Barabas could send Uncle Floyd’s player way back to the beginning of the game, and Barabas could get an extra 20 moves! Barabas was way ahead of Uncle Floyd.

Barabas and Mrs. Potato Head were both way ahead of Uncle Floyd and it was Barabas’s turn. Mrs. Potato Head’s player was just at the entrance to the path to Home, which is where you go to win. Barabas rolled the dice and got doubles! Now, if you have ever played Parcheesi, you know doubles are a good thing to roll. And he immediately saw that he could combine the numbers on the dice just right and send Mrs. Potato Head’s player back to the beginning and Barabas would surely be the winner!

Barabas glanced at her face to see if she noticed the move was possible. But she still had her sad face on and was not really thinking about the game.

Barabas hesitated and then decided to make a different move. He did not send Mrs. Potato Head back to the beginning. He did not even win the game. Mrs. Potato Head won. Both Uncle Floyd and Barabas cheered for her. And finally, her sad face gave way to a little smile. THE END