

“Back In A Jiffy”
Mark 13:24 – 37
November 30, 2008
By Rebecca Enney

Barabas and Elizabeth were eating cookies at the Garden of Eatin Part 2. Running Chairs came rushing up to them saying “Like, do you have your Christmas Tree up yet? We put ours up yesterday you know. Like, it’s already Christmas!”

“Well” answered Elizabeth, “Actually, today is the first Sunday in Advent, so it is not Christmas yet.”

Uncle Floyd interrupted to say “I reckon it’s time we head home son.” So Barabas said goodbye and off they went. When they got home their two dogs, Jeter and Arod were so happy to see them that they barked and barked! Suddenly Uncle Floyd realized that he had left his tool box back at the church. So he told Barabas to stay put there at home and not get into trouble while he drove back to the church to pick it up.

“You are in charge while I am gone. I reckon I’ll be back in a jiffy.” he said.

“Home alone!” thought Barabas. “What can I do quick before he gets back! I know! I’ll get the Christmas decorations down from the attic!”

So Barabas and Jeter and Arod went to the second floor hallway and pulled down the steps out of the ceiling there and climbed up into the attic. All the decorations were in boxes in the back of the attic, so he carefully walked on the boards across the rafters until he got to the back corner. Then he carried the first box down the set of steps and down to the living room. Jeter and Arod were wagging their tails and barking and running up and down the stairs with him in excitement.

The second box was just a little bigger and heavier and it got stuck in the attic stairway. As he tired to push it through the opening, he lost his balance, left go of the box to grab the edge of the ladder and the box crashed to the floor, hitting Jeter hard on the head! “Ohhhh!” Barabas quickly climbed down the ladder. He was lying on the floor looking kind of dizzy and Arod was barking and sniffing at Jeter’s head. Barabas pushed the box out of the way into his room and went back to check on Jeter, who by now had gotten up and seemed okay.

So Barabas headed up to the attic again. Only this time Arod tried climbing up the ladder behind him and got caught in the mechanism that operates the door! Arod barked and Barabas picked him up and the door slammed shut and Barabas and Arod were trapped in the attic, with Jeter barking like crazy in the hallway below!

Home alone! Barabas thought he would be helpful but it seemed like everything he did in the last 10 minutes went wrong! He should have been more careful! He should have paid attention to the dogs. He should not have tired to carry that big box alone. And now he could hear the truck pulling into the driveway outside and Uncle Floyd would soon be looking for him!

Before Jesus left this earth and ascended into heaven to live with God, he said goodbye to his disciples. “I’m leaving you in charge. I’ll be back in a jiffy!” he said. Well, maybe he didn’t say “in a jiffy” but he explained to his followers that they are now in charge of God’s work here in the world until he comes again. He didn’t say WHEN he would come again, only that it would be soon and that we should be ready.

Sometimes we forget that Advent is about being ready for Christ to come again. We forget to be ready, we hurt the people we love, we forget to pay attention at church, we goof off and don’t even say our prayers at bedtime and meal time. Sometimes we kind of get trapped up in the attic of our lives.



I wonder what Jesus will say when he comes and discovers that we haven't been taking care of things as we should . . . I wonder what Uncle Floyd will say when he finds Barabas trapped up in the attic with Arod . . .

THE END