

“Pastor Ed Visits Aunt Gertrude – Psalm 51”

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By Rebecca Enney

Elizabeth was playing in her room when she heard a sound in her house that she has never heard there before. It was the voice of Pastor Ed singing a sad song to Aunt Gertrude.



♪ Have mercy on me O God, because of your unfa^{il}/ing love.
Because of your great compassion, blot out the / stain of my sins.

Wash me clean from / my guilt.
Purify me / from my sin.

For I recognize my / shameful deeds
They haunt me / day and night. ♪

Elizabeth went over to the heat vent and lay down on the floor so she could hear better. Have you ever done that in your house!?



Then Elizabeth heard Pastor Ed saying “In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks/ broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.”

“That sounds like the words when we receive communion!” thought Elizabeth. “That’s really nice that Pastor Ed has come to give Aunt Gertrude communion! She is so sick she can’t go to the church any more.”

Then Elizabeth heard something that really perked up her ears. Pastor Ed said “Does Barabas know yet?”

(Elizabeth stands up!) “Does Barabas know what!?” thought Elizabeth. *(Elizabeth lies back down.)* She listened harder at the heat vent.

“No, I didn’t tell him when he came over last week.”

“How about Uncle Floyd, have you told him?” . . . “Perhaps you should.”

And then Pastor Ed said out loud a secret that almost no one knows about. You see, several years ago, Barabas was very sick in the hospital and needed a new vase transplant, because his old one was severely broken in the skateboard accident. But because Uncle Floyd’s insurance did not cover the cost for the vase, they realized they needed to resort to a short cheap vase that did not fit Barabas at all, but it was the best he could afford. The vase that was exactly perfect was far, far too expensive. Only Pastor Ed and Nurse Fran ever knew that it was Aunt Gertrude who paid for the exactly perfect vase for Barabas.

This is what Elizabeth overheard Pastor Ed say: “Everyone thinks you have nothing but contempt for Barabas. How is it that you paid \$1,000,000.00 for that vase transplant for him?”

(Elizabeth stands up!) “Aunt Gertrude paid that much money for Barabas to have that operation! That must be why she asked him about his vase last week!” *(Elizabeth lies back down.)*

Elizabeth heard Aunt Gertrude say “Barabas is Elizabeth’s best friend in the whole wide world. I did it for my niece. It no longer matters that Barabas is not a giraffe.” Then Aunt Gertrude added “I’m so sorry for all the mean things I’ve said and done in my lifetime.”

Pastor Ed started singing that sad song again and while she laid on the floor, listening thru the heat vent, Elizabeth’s heart filled with love and sadness.

♪ Create in me a clean heart, / O God.	Renew a right spirit/ within me.
Restore to me again the joy of / your salvation	And make me willing to /obey you.

THE END