

“The Good News”
Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:19
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Did you ever wake up and for the life of you, you can't remember where in the world you are. That just happened to Barabas. Before he even opened his eyes, he laid there wondering. He was supposed to count backwards from 10 to zero, but he only remembered getting as far as 10 . . . 9 . . . 8 . . . and that was the last he could remember!

Right now he can hear a voice he doesn't know saying “I think he is waking up.” Then he heard a voice he did know saying “I reckon that's a good thing.”

“I may as well open my eyes and figure this out.” thought Barabas. So he opened one eye and saw Nurse Fran and then he opened the other eye and saw Uncle Floyd and Pastor Ed. Then he heard a rough voice say “I can't thank him enough.”

“That's right!” thought Barabas. “I donated some of the special growing thread from my scar to Aunt Gertrude! I'm in the hospital.”



Barabas searched the faces around him to find the one that belongs to Aunt Gertrude. There she was, behind Pastor Ed in the next bed!

“Did it work?” he asked. “Did the special growing thread work!?! You can talk now so it must have worked!” Every one smiled at him and nodded.

Barabas's face felt odd. He reached up to touch his scar and found a big bandage.

Aunt Gertrude and Barabas smiled. No need to say any more for now! Nurse Fran finished fussing over Barabas and then left the room. Pastor Ed prayed with Barabas and Uncle Floyd and excused himself. Then

Uncle Floyd, who looked oddly exhausted, kissed Barabas goodnight and left for home to feed the dogs, Jeter and A-rod and let them out.

At last, it was just the two of them. They turned to each other and for awhile they said nothing. Finally Barabas asked “So it did work!”



Aunt Gertrude said in her broken voice “The news is good! Thanks be to God!” In an uncharacteristic rush of questions Barabas asked Aunt Gertrude “How did you injure your neck in the first place? Does it hurt? My face is okay. I’m glad you can talk now.” and lots more.

Aunt Gertrude explained that her broken neck was not from an injury, but from neck fatigue. This happens to giraffes when they become sad and grumpy and hang their head too much. “You see, God designed us to hold our head high, but I had forgotten to do that.” And so her neck became so weak that it just broke.

Nurse Fran came in and turned on the night light and turned off the overhead lights. And on into the dark they talked. Barabas told her about the time he was in the hospital a few years ago for the vase transplant. “Yes, I know all about that.” said Aunt Gertrude.

“My new vase cost a lot of money and someone donated the \$1,000,000,000 for the operation because Uncle Floyd’s insurance did not pay for it.” “Yes, I know all about that.” said Aunt Gertrude again and Barabas caught a look on her face that told him a secret. Suddenly Barabas knew! He knew that it was Aunt Gertrude who paid for his vase transplant!

Sometimes in life the most unlikely people will be forever connected because of good news. That is how it was for the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip, a disciple of Jesus. Good News brought them together and they were both changed forever.



Christ is the Good News for us all, and Christ, loving us first leads us to love and forgiveness.

So it is for Barabas and Aunt Gertrude.

THE END