

“Listening To the Truth”
[Amos 7:7-15](#) & [Mark 6:14-29](#)

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By Rebecca Enney

Yesterday afternoon Elizabeth invited her best friends over to play Parcheesi in her new bedroom! But after Barabas won seven games in a row, they thought they might go over to Barabas’s house to play for a while. Elizabeth went down stairs to ask Aunt Gertrude for permission while Barabas and Running Chairs put the Parcheesi players away.



“Like, you know, I think it is, like terrible that Elizabeth has to ask for permission from Aunt Gertrude just to go down to your, you know, house because it’s like just down the alley and at MY house I ask mommy if I leave the farm, but I can go visit the people at the farm house without asking Mommy first. But she always says, you know, like I should tell her first, because one time I really DID get lost and Mommy looked everywhere for me but it was okay because she found me but why should Elizabeth have to ask Aunt Gertrude, I mean, like she is such a mean old lady, and she is not even Elizabeth’s MOMMY and she made Elizabeth do all the work to make this bedroom and it was actually Elizabeth’s bedroom all along. Like, one time at school one of my friends said, but she’s not really my friend, but she said she thinks I talk too much, and she laughed at me and now she doesn’t even talk to me at all, but I don’t think I talk too much. Do you?”

This happens to guys sometimes. A female asks for your opinion, and you wonder if you should say the truth or should you just say what she wants you to say! The truth is . . . Barabas really DOES think that Running Chairs talks too much. But he also likes Running Chairs. They are friends. He would not want to be mean to her. So

this is what Barabas said: “I think you talk a lot, but because you are my friend, I do not mind so much, except sometimes.”

“But I always have so much to say!” said Running Chairs. “I could never be as quiet as YOU are!” It kind of hurt Running Chairs feelings, that Barabas thinks she talks too much. “Maybe I shouldn’t talk so much, but then how would anyone know what I am thinking. I mean, you know, like if I think of something important, I need to tell someone right away!”

“Mmmh.” said Barabas. And then he added “You know, Aunt Gertrude is not the mean old lady you think she is.” Then he put the Parcheesi board under Elizabeth’s bed where she stores it.



“But Aunt Gertrude DOES seem to be a mean old lady.” thought Running Chairs, to herself. “Like I remember when she did not let Elizabeth even PLAY with Barabas, because he was not some uppity giraffe. That is just like, mean!” But at least Running Chairs only THOUGHT this and resisted saying it aloud.

They could hear Elizabeth running back up the stairs.

“Well, like can we go to Barabas’s house? Do you have, like permission?” Clearly Running Chairs IS talking too much and she is not being kind about Aunt Gertrude AT ALL!

In today’s lessons from Amos and Mark, there were people who behaved in a way that God did not approve of. So God sent each a prophet (a spokesman for God) to tell them the truth, and in the Amos lesson, the prophet was sent away and in the Mark lesson, the prophet was beheaded! Sometimes people are not willing to hear the truth. Sometimes it is dangerous to tell the truth!

Elizabeth and Barabas both looked at Running Chairs, more than a little disappointed with her behavior. Elizabeth said “Aunt Gertrude offered to drive us to Barabas’s house and we’ll pick up Uncle Floyd and she’ll treat us all to ice cream. Would you rather not come?”

“Oh . . .” said Running Chairs, looking at the floor. “That would be nice.” She decided to work at not talking so much or being so nasty.

THE END