

“Unbind Him”

[John 11:32-44](#)

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By Rebecca Enney

Last night was October 31, Halloween. Mrs. Potato Head decided to have some fun, so she put on her pirate costume and went over to Uncle Floyd’s house to ‘trick or treat.’ Uncle Floyd guessed who she was right away. But then Uncle Floyd got a fun idea!



“I reckon I need to go over to the church anyway and do the Saturday night security. Why don’t you help me put on a costume and we can go over together. Maybe we can scare Pastor Ed if he is still there working on his sermon.”

So Mrs. Potato Head took a roll of toilet paper and carefully wrapped up Uncle Floyd to look like a mummy! In old times, and even still today in some cultures, when a family member dies, the loved ones will take long pieces of white cloth and wrap it around and around the dead person’s body before they bury him. That is a loving thing to do for someone you love who has died. Sometimes, in movies or at Halloween, we might make a costume like this to scare someone, just for fun! So Mrs. Potato Head wrapped and wrapped the toilet paper around Uncle Floyd and then off they went to Pastor Ed’s church!



And, in fact, Pastor Ed WAS there in his office, late at night, alone in a big dark building, working at his computer. The lesson his sermon was on was about was from the book of John in the Bible and it tells the true story about the grown up sisters of Mary and Martha and their grown up brother, Lazarus who had died. They had bound up the body of their dead brother and laid him in the tomb. When Jesus heard that their brother had died, he cried with them, because Jesus also loved their brother.

That is when Jesus used a power that only God has, showing that Jesus is one and the same as God. Jesus told the sisters to open the cave tomb. The sisters said “But Lazarus has been dead for several days now. There will be a bad smell!” But when they obeyed and the tomb was opened, much to the amazement of everyone, the dead man walked out. “Unbind him and let him go!” Jesus commanded. It was a true miracle for the dead man was alive! It became a story that Mary and Martha told over and over again to everyone they met. Jesus brought their brother back to life! They saw the Glory of God!

This is where the story gets kind of complicated. First, we have Pastor Ed, alone, in a dark building, working on a sermon about a dead man who is wrapped in bands of cloth. Second, we have a Pirate and a Mummy sneaking down the dark hallway to scare Pastor Ed and third . . . we have a skunk who slipped thru the church door when they entered and it is silently following them.

Uncle Floyd was having a hard time seeing and bumped into Pastor Ed’s office door, which startled Mrs. Potato Head, who gave a shriek and scared the skunk, who sprayed them with that powerful bad odor and ran away and Pastor Ed, who sitting at his desk thought “What is that noise I hear?! What is that terrible smell!” just as Uncle Floyd came stumbling into the room like a dead man walking!



“Eh eh eh eh eh eeee” whinnied Pastor Ed as he reared up over his desk!

“Unbind me!” shouted Uncle Floyd. “Let me go!”

And Mrs. Potato Head laughed so hard that she fell on the floor and had tears running down her face.

It became a story that the three of them told over and over again, laughing with delight at God’s sense of humor! THE END