

"Something Really Good and Unexpected!"

[1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) and [Luke 4:21-30](#)

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Today's Gospel lesson talks about how the people in Jesus' hometown did not expect Jesus to be the Messiah. And the 2nd lesson talks about love. There are many kinds of love, for instance, right now, Barabas is thinking about the kind of love he feels for his dogs, Arod and Jeter. They are always patient with Barabas. They are never rude. They do not insist on their own way. If Barabas feels like playing Frisbee, then they will play too. And if Barabas wants to lie on his rug and feel sorry for himself, they will lie there and feel sorry with him. They even protect him from any monsters who might live under his bed. Dogs really are man's best friend. Many times they are a good example of unconditional love.

As it turns out, Saturday afternoon Barabas was on his floor with his dogs. And Arod and Jeter were helping Barabas feel really sorry for himself. He had hoped that Sam could come over on Friday after school and play Wii Sports and stay for supper, but then Uncle Floyd needed to be at the church and Mrs. Potato Head was babysitting and it would be too much for her if Barabas had a friend over.

So first thing on Saturday morning Barabas called Sam. "Can you come over today?" And Sam said "No. I have indoor soccer this morning and . . . ah . . . I have something else this afternoon."

So Barabas called Elizabeth and asked "Can you come over and play?" And Elizabeth said "I have my piano lesson this morning and a haircut and . . . ah . . . I have something else this afternoon."



"Nobody loves me," thought Barabas, when he hung up the phone. "Elizabeth and Sam must be playing without me . . . probably they think that they are best friends. Nobody loves me but Arod and Jeter." And he continued to feel really sorry for himself. This happens even to the best of us sometimes.

As Barabas lay there on the floor he heard the doorbell. Then he heard Uncle Floyd say "I reckon he'd like to see you. Go on up to his room at the top of the stairs."

"Oh, maybe it is Sam after all. Or maybe it is Elizabeth!"

But when the door opened it was not Sam or Elizabeth. It was that odd new kid from school, Obadiah.

"Oh . . . hi . . ." said Barabas without enthusiasm.

"Would you care to play some Parcheesi?" asked Obadiah. "Sure," said Barabas in an off handed sort of way. Barabas was expecting it to be boring because he always wins at Parcheesi. However, the unexpected happened. It turns out that Obadiah is VERY GOOD at Parcheesi, and he won three games in a row before Barabas finally won the fourth game!



And then they played on Wii Sports and Obadiah won at bowling, but Barabas won at tennis. Barabas had a really good time yesterday afternoon. He forgot all about missing Elizabeth and Sam.

"I think I found an unexpected friend," thought Barabas after he said goodbye to Obadiah.

You know, sometimes God surprises us. He sends us something unexpectedly good, at an unexpected time, from an unexpected person.

That might be what the people in Nazareth thought when they heard the unexpected news about Joseph's son, Jesus, being the Messiah and all!

I hope that God sends YOU something really good and unexpected this week!

THE END