

“Turn Around”
Acts 9:1-20 and John 21:1-19
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By Rebecca Enney

Sometimes in life you need to ‘turn around’. That might mean like when Mr. Potato Head has been driving and has been lost for several miles and Mrs. Potato Head finally says “turn around for heaven’s sake”! The hardest part of turning around is admitting you were going in the wrong direction to start.

Or it might be something like what happened in today’s lesson from John when the disciples were very discouraged because they had caught zero fish. Jesus said “Cast your nets on the OTHER side of the boat.” It was like he said “turn around and do it the other way.” And when they turned around, they caught more fish than ever before!

Or it might be like the lesson from Acts when Paul, a non-believer heard a sudden loud voice from the sky saying “Paul! Why do you persecute me?!” Paul fell to the ground and was blind for several days until he finally understood that Jesus was ordering him to “turn around. Become a believer!” It was hard work to turn around but Paul did it and became the greatest preacher in the world!

Well, here we are in CA. To be exact, we are on Lenkershim Blvd. in North Hollywood at the Disney Internet Group where Barabas’s father Frank is a janitor. Frank finished putting the mops away, locked up the slop sink closet and clocked out at the end of his night shift.

And then, because he meets his pastor for breakfast every Tuesday morning, he walked to that funny little café down the street that is named “EAT”.

“I surely wish I could see my son more often,” he said to himself, feeling a bit glum. He felt better though, when he saw Pastor Glen come in. This is Pastor Glen, the pastor at Salem Lutheran Church.



After they had finished up their green eggs and ham Frank said “I surely appreciate all the breakfasts we’ve had together. Your support means a lot to me.”

“You have done a terrific job Frank,” said Pastor Glen. “You’ve held your job for over two years now, and you’ve been faithful in your worship attendance. And you have remained sober. I know it is a hard thing to turn around from the life you led before you came here.”

You see, before Frank came here, he was in prison because of that terrible car crash. That is when Barabas was a little baby and he got that big scar on his face. And that is when Barabas's mother died. That was the last time that Frank drank, alcohol that is.

"Bad memories sometimes come unbidden," said Pastor Glen.

"I'm just glad that Barabas was so young," Frank said. "He has no memories of that awful day. And I'm glad that my brother, Uncle Floyd adopted Barabas."

Frank has had a lot of grown up problems that most children don't know much about, unless it has happened in their own family. "It is surely a hard thing to always work for what is right," said Frank.

"Turning around to do the right thing is always hard work. I'm here to help you," promised Pastor Glenn! And they smiled and clicked their coffee mugs together. Then Pastor Glen headed off to his church for their staff meeting. And Frank, because he had worked all night, headed home to sleep. THE END