

"The Best Garbage Man"
Luke 8:26-39, Galatians 3:23-29
June 20, 2010

Does your bedroom ever get kind of messy? I know mine does! Haman's bedroom has gotten very messy. (we'll have to pretend this is a messy room.) His daddy said "Son, you need to clean your room!"



So here is Haman, who loves garbage trucks, pretending to be a garbage truck: (imitation of truck lifting dumpster, crushing garbage and driving off) Haman thinks this is great fun!

Let's see, there's some really broken stuff here, like this old broken Woody from Toy Story and this slinky. Oh, and here is a pile of old wadded up drawings from Sunday School he can throw away.

Eew! What's this under the bed?! It stinks! I think it is a piece of rotten pizza with green mildew growing on it! That is thoroughly disgusting!

Ahh! There is a whole infestation of potato bugs! Things can get pretty bad! Haman actually had a bit of fun placing all this garbage in the garbage can to carry out to the curb.

You know, funny thing about garbage men, they will not come into your house and clean it for you. You need to carry it out. The garbage man takes it away and buries it in a landfill, which is a whole other problem.

So now, Haman's bedroom is clean , ta-da! Haman feels really good about his cleaned up room!

"Hmmm. What can I do now that is fun? . . . I know! I'll go tease my sister! That's always fun!"

But before he left the room, Haman stopped and thought "Hmmm, I've got my room all clean and daddy will be happy about that. But if I tease Polly, daddy will be mad at me." And he thought that teasing his sister is kind of like garbage, it makes a mess of things.

Haman is right you know. Bad behavior is like garbage. When we've done things we are ashamed of, when it seems like the demons are winning, we drag our shame and sinfulness around with us like a bag of garbage. Unfortunately, it seems like grownups are especially good at doing this.

But what to do with our 'garbage behavior'? It's not like we can carry our bad behavior out to the curb for the garbage man . . . or can we?

What if Jesus is our behavior garbage man. Haman decided NOT to tease his sister. Just put that bad behavior in a pretend garbage bag and carry it to Jesus.

You know, Jesus will do this, not just for potatoes, but he will carry the garbage behavior away for giraffes and horses and bears and people. That's because we all belong to Christ.



And another thing! Jesus doesn't even need a landfill for the garbage behavior. His love for us when he died on the cross takes our garbage behavior and forgives it and forgets it!

That is really good news! Thank you God for taking away our sins! THE END