

“Once I Was Lost, But Now I Am Found”

Luke 15:1-10

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By Rebecca Enney

Elizabeth and Barabas, who are best friends, were getting ready to go home from the playground when Barabas suggested “Let’s go home a different way, just to make it interesting.” Barabas loves to explore and he has ridden his bike on almost every street in the neighborhood. Elizabeth was walking, but she agreed.



There is something you need to know about Elizabeth. She is a very smart little girl, but she has no sense of direction. So when they got to the first intersection and Barabas suggested “Let’s time our selves, just to make it interesting. I’ll ride my bike down two blocks and then turn right and then I’ll turn left and you walk down to the next corner and turn left and then turn right.” And off he went on the bike, first to the right and then to the left.

Elizabeth walked down the street and couldn’t remember if she was to turn left or right, so she turned . . . right. The houses here were bigger than the houses in her neighborhood. And they had pretty yards. At the next corner she thought, “Now, should I turn left or right here?” So she turned . . . right.

Elizabeth had never been in this neighborhood before. None of her friends lived here and she wasn’t sure which way she should look for Barabas and when this ‘interesting’ thing would be over. The further Elizabeth walked, the more worried she became.

“Should I go knock on someone’s front door and tell them I am lost?” she wondered. “Where is Barabas? I thought he would be right around the corner!” Her walking had changed from being happy and fast, to worried and slow, to panicked and fast again! Elizabeth wanted to cry “I don’t know which way to go!” So she stopped.

In the meantime Barabas waited for Elizabeth. He looked up the street and down the street. He looked ahead and he looked behind. But Elizabeth was nowhere to be seen.

“That’s odd,” thought Barabas. So he rode his bike around a bit looking for Elizabeth. He was sure he would see her just around the next corner. Except he did not see her anywhere! Barabas’s bike ride had changed from happy and fast, to worried and slow, to panicked and fast again!

“Darn! I should not have suggested this idea! Elizabeth has no sense of direction! She could get lost in a shoebox!” Barabas peddled hard and fast, looking up and down and ahead and behind on every street.

“Oh she’s lost and it’s my fault! Maybe she went home without me . . . no, I don’t think so, because she has no sense of direction!”

Barabas stopped his bike. "I've got to think carefully," he said to himself. And then he gathered his wits and knew he should just keep riding around the streets right near where they started, which is what he did. Finally, he turned a corner and saw her. He pedaled up behind her, got off his bike and walked over and put his hand on her shoulder. "Hello," he said quietly.

"Hello," Elizabeth said as she turned to him, holding back the sobs of relief that wanted to come flooding out.

"We really aren't that far from home. I guess you've never been on this street before. I'll ride beside you till we get there. It's just three blocks from here."

If we ever get lost from God, Jesus has promised to look up and down and ahead and behind until he finds us, just like Barabas did for Elizabeth. "Once I was lost, but now I am found."

THE END