

"Gator Objects!"

Romans 13:8-14 & Matthew 18:15-20

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by Rebecca Enney

You may remember that the man who looks a lot like Barabas, but is not Barabas, turns out to be the younger brother of Uncle Floyd and Frank Heffelfinger. And, you may remember that he sometimes exhibits difficult behavior. And now, Uncle Floyd has invited Francis Heffelfinger to temporarily live with them.

Here is Gator, complaining to Uncle Floyd about just that.

"Francis is always asleep on the living room sofa when we leave for school and you keep making us tip toe around him every morning. And he steps on my tail and I think he does it on purpose! And I have seen him bump into Barabas like he wants to start a fight. And he doesn't talk much and then he talks all the time really loud. I OBJECT (and Gator slammed his claw to the floor) I OBJECT to him being in MY house!"

"YOUR house!? Gator! I reckon you bemoan my generosity of bringing a stranger into YOUR house without considering what has been done for the very likes of YOU, yourself!"

"But he eats all my thin pretzel sticks! I think this isn't fair!"

"I reckon you need to go sit out back under the tree until you get a new think coming! And I reckon I will have a word with Francis."

And so, it came to pass that Gator was sitting under that bush, that tree out back when an unusual gust of wind came along and shook all the branches and rustled up all the leaves and a whole pile of leaves landed all around Gator, almost covered him.



Gator, being a very smart sixth grader, looked around and smiled. He realized how he is covered by all these leaves, just like he is covered by the blessings and love that Uncle Floyd offers. And Gator thought about how Uncle Floyd took him into HIS house when Gator was the outcast, when Gator was the stranger, like Francis is now.

Gator recognized that if he wants to grow up to be better than who he was when he lived at "Downattheriver", if he wants to be more like Uncle Floyd, well, then he should welcome Francis into their home, even though it will be hard to do. THE END