

## **"Barabas' New Shirt"**

Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51:1-12

by Rebecca Enney



Barabas is wearing his new shirt. It is not fancy, but it is clean and white.

"I reckon" said Uncle Floyd, "you will need to be careful about eating your spaghetti tonight for supper. Maybe you should change your shirt."

"But I WANT to wear this shirt! I like it." Barabas rudely insisted.

He was very careful at supper, but he did get a bit of the red sauce on it, see.  
(MARK SHIRT) Oh dear.

It is too bad when we SLIP UP, MAKE MISTAKES. It kinda shows when you look closely.

And then when Uncle Floyd asked Barabas to take out the kitchen trash, Barabas said "NOW!?! I'm doing my homework." So, Uncle Floyd took it out.

And later, when Uncle Floyd asked if Barabas's homework was done, Barabas said "yup" even though it was not. He had not practiced his spelling.

More mess ups. When we are rude to the grownups or do not tell the truth, it does NOT make things better. It makes things WORSE.

(MARK SHIRT) Oh dear. If this has happened to you, you may think "Oh, I am sorry God. But these were just little things. I didn't mean it." But the new shirt still got dirty.

And then, when Gator was on the floor watching TV and Barabas decided to step over Gator and Gator did not HEAR Barabas there and mindlessly flipped his tail, well, it was as if a catastrophe had occurred.

“OUCH! THAT HURT. UNCLE FLOYD. GATOR HIT ME WITH HIS TAIL . . . ON PURPOSE!” Barabas greatly exaggerated the whole thing. And he kind of KNEW it was an accident. And Uncle Floyd came out and told Gator to go to his room. “I reckon you KNOW not to flip your tail at people!” And Gator quietly went to his room . . .

Barabas, that was really unfair. You should apologize. But Barabas did not. Barabas did not FEEL like being nice to his brother Gator! He is just a stupid alligator.



(MARK SHIRT) Oh dear. When we hurt others it begins to BREAK AND TEAR AND RIP at all that is good. (MARK SHIRT)

And Barabas looked at his new shirt. And he was ashamed. He regretted his actions.

Jesus came and asked Barabas to take the tattered shirt off. Jesus put it in the garbage can.



Does Barabas deserve a new shirt? Probably not. But Jesus, with GREAT LOVE takes our tattered lives and our sinfulness and washes them whiter than SNOW!

THANK YOU JESUS!      THANK YOU JESUS!THE END