

"The Imaginary Lower Shelf"

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by Rebecca Enney



Aunt Gertrude LOVES her family. They are a tall, proud family of giraffes! She especially loves her sister Wilma. They have been together since they were little girls growing up in Tanzania, over in Africa. See over there, east of us, is the whole part of the family that still lives near Dar Es Salam in Tanzania!

But back to her family here. Here is her sister Wilma and Wilma's husband Walter Mawakasunga. They are the parents of Elizabeth who is in second grade, as you know. And the twins Edward and Ella, who are still babies.

That's about it for who Aunt Gertrude loves. Mostly she does not care for bears (well, except for Pastor Glenn) or potatoes or alligators! Who could care for an

alligator??!

Generally, Aunt Gertrude thinks that horses are okay, especially Pastor Ed and his family.

And then there are people. At one time, Aunt Gertrude thought that Elizabeth should not be allowed to play with Barabas.

After all, he has to live with his Uncle Floyd because his father, Frank WAS in jail. Now he is out west in California and is a janitor at Disney Internet Group on Lenkershim Boulevard. And Barabas has that nasty big scar on his face! However, because of a series of unfortunate events, Aunt Gertrude has come to care deeply for Barabas. And, of course, everyone LOVES Uncle Floyd.



All this is to say that Aunt Gertrude has a lot of opinions about who is lovable and who is not. It is as if her opinion keeps most characters on a "Lower Shelf" except those she approves of, they may sit on her shelf.



You see, where they live, when not in the story on Sunday morning, is on shelves in a closet. And HER shelf is at the top, right as it should be. She would prefer not to be with others on a lower shelf.

The lessons this morning talk about how sometimes WE people behave a bit like Aunt Gertrude and we put "some people" on an imaginary lower shelf in the closet where we live.

It seems to me that whenever we do that, when we put others on a Lower Shelf, if we look closer, we will be surprised to see that JESUS IS ON THAT LOWER SHELF WITH THEM!

Jesus has loved us all -- bears, potatoes, horses, people, alligators and even giraffes. We are called to do the same, to love everyone on ALL THE SHELVES! THE END

