

"Mrs. Potato Head's Lesson"

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by Rebecca Enney

This morning early before church, Uncle Floyd, as the church sexton (which, as you may know, the sexton is the person who keeps the church building clean and fixes things) Uncle Floyd needed to go in early to open up the church because the person who usually does that, The Church Secretary, was off on vacation. So, Uncle Floyd took Gator with him early, but he dropped off Barabas at Mrs. Potato Head's apartment at the Retirement Home.



"Did you have your breakfast yet Sonny?" she asked Barabas. "Well, yes, but I could eat more." So, she put two frozen waffles in the toaster and got out the syrup. Mrs. Potato Head noticed Barabas looking at the family photo on her dresser. "Oh my. That little tater tot in the front was your daddy at the age of 4! What a darling he was."

"And that one is your brother, Officer Spud, when he was a teenager, right?!" said Barabas.

"Yes, and that one with the mustache was your grandfather. He is in heaven now."

Barabas said: "He must have been a perfectly good man to be in heaven now!"

"Yes!" she said, shaking her head NO. "He WAS a very good man, but at times he could vex me no end."

"What does vex mean?" asked Barabas. "Annoy. Rile! Sometimes he would tease me til I wanted to throw the kitchen towel at him! But mostly, he was a good and gentle man My how I miss him."

Mrs. Potato Head looked at Barabas, whom she loves. And she decided he was old enough to learn something about being good. This was her lesson to Barabas.

"Nobody is perfectly good. Well, except for Jesus. Do you think YOU are perfectly good Barabas?"

Barabas thought about the time when he lied to Uncle Floyd and said he had cleaned up all the dog poop in the back yard, but he had not. And yesterday when he started that fight with Gator. And, well, there were a number of times he has not been perfectly good!

Mrs. Potato Head continued "Nobody is perfectly good. Not a one of us in the whole wide world. If we could be, then we would not have needed Jesus to die on the cross! But as it turns out, because we all have sinned and because Jesus DID die on the cross, He has paid the way for our sins to be erased. We do not get to heaven by being good. We get to heaven because Jesus takes us there in love.

Barabas furrowed his eyebrows. (Can you?) That means he did not fully understand Mrs. Potato Head's lesson. That's okay. Many of us don't understand! THE END