

## ***"The Beginning of the Story That I Told You Last Week"***

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So, in the lessons today, there is a miracle that Jesus performs when He attends a wedding. He turns water into wine. Jesus saves the day! However, my story does not have a wedding or wine in it.

Last Sunday we had that beautiful light snowfall. Uncle Floyd and Barabas walked down to church earlier than usual to clear the snow from the sidewalks. Gator was not quite ready to leave yet, so he said he would follow shortly.

Later, when Gator did leave the house, he locked the door and headed down the alley.



Except as happens sometimes you know, you don't always do just what you have planned to do. And so, instead of walking straight to church, Gator took the very path he should NOT take, and walked to the very place that has always brought trouble. . .

Downattheriver! That is where Gator lived before Uncle Floyd adopted him. It was a bad place. It is the very place that Officer Spud famously said: "Gator should NEVER go to again!"

Everything at Downattheriver was covered with that clean white snow and it almost looked beautiful. Gator found a little stone under the snow and gave it a toss towards the partially frozen water at the edge of the river. And then he threw another small one. And then he threw another. And then he found a larger one and threw it.

Gator noticed a bump over there in the snow and without even thinking twice, Gator picked out the largest rock and threw it very hard at that bump! Just to see if he could. And that was the BIG mistake! You see, under that "bump" was a large white mean cat, a cat the size of an alligator! Kat! Kat was not injured, but he was VERY angry.



Kat reared up out of the snow and snarled as only a VERY angry mean cat who has been rudely awakened can do. Kat lunged upon the unsuspecting alligator and flipped him over and clawed the tender hide of Gator's underbelly.

Gator screamed in pain and Kat stopped and looked at whom he had attacked. Gator and Kat had once been friends, who often got into big trouble together. It was not a healthy friendship. Surprisingly, Kat felt a little remorse for hurting Gator.

"I didn't, I didn't, I didn't mean to hurt you so much." And he flipped Gator back over. "Are you okay?" but under his breath Kat whispered "sissy". Gator tried to walk but it hurt too much because when an alligator walks, his belly rubs the ground.

Surprisingly, Kat told Gator "I will help you home." When they got to Gator's back door, Gator gave his house key to Kat who unlocked the house.



Kat dropped Gator on the kitchen floor, right where Uncle Floyd and Barabas found him when they got home from church just minutes after Kat had slipped out and re-locked the door. Of course, the fact that Kat re-locked the door indicates that Kat KEPT THE KEY to Uncle Floyd's house! And he maliciously put the stolen key in his pocket. Kat smiled!

TO BE CONTINUED