

Sam's Parable

There once was church without a pastor. And the day came that the board of this church was interviewing prospective pastors. They had interviewed several but none were to their liking. Some were too bold, some were too quiet, some were too harsh, some were too flashy an' some, they thought, just weren't pretty enough.

The last interviewee of the day stood before the board. His name was Sam. One of the board members asked Sam if he knew his Bible. Sam replied, "I shore do – I knows my Bible from cover to cover, from Generations to Revolutions." Someone else asked him what part of the Bible he liked best and Sam said, "I likes the New Testament the best." When they asked him what part of the New Testament, Sam said, "I likes the Book of Parables."

The board members exchanged glances then one of them asked Sam what parable he liked best, to which he replied, "I likes the parable of the Good Samaritan the best." The board then asked if he would tell them the story of the Good Samaritan. This is the way Sam told it:

A man named Laz'rus wuz riding 'is mule on 'is way from Jericho down to Jerusalem, an' he seen dem a commin' – from afar off – an' five uf dem wuz wise, an' five uf dem wuz foolish.

An' dey come forth ter meet 'im wid palm leaf fans, cryin', "Great is Susannah uf de Ephesians." An' dey waved dem palm leaf fins in dat mule's face. An' behold, the mule flung 'im, an' he fell among thieves, but dey passed by on de other side.

While he wuz on the ground, thorns grew up an' choked 'im, that he died. But Jesus met 'im walking on the water an' said, "Laz'rus, come forth," an' he raised 'im from the dead. Though he wuz still badly injured, he was comfited, because the dogs came an' licked his sores.

Feeling better, he went on into the far country, though he had no money, an' he et the husks wid the swine. Luckily, on his way he met the Queen of Sheba an' she giv 'im a thousan' talents of gold an' a hundred changes of raiment.

Soon after, he met a caravan goin' down to Egyp' an' from dez guys he bought a chariot with flames on the side.

He got in his chariot an' rode furiously along. But he wuz driving too fas, and his hair became caught in the lim' of a big oak tree, an' he wuz left a-hangin' there as his chariot went over a cliff an' wuz choked in the sea. Now, he wuz a-hangin' there for three days an' three nights, but he did not go hungry, 'cause the ravens came an' giv' 'im food to eat an' water to drink.

An' one night while he wuz a-hangin' there asleep, his wife, Delilah, came an' cut off his hair, an' he dropped an' fell on the stony ground; an' it began to rain an' it rained forty days an' forty nights, an' he hid hisself in a cave.

He finally decided to go back to Jerusalem. Needin' to get there afore winter, he had to locate transportation. He had no money agin, 'cause he lost his coins in a house. Laz'rus, however, had a great idea: he would sell his birthright to a man for a donkey an' ride it into town.

Fin'lly, as he cum to Jerusalem, he saw an old hen trying to get her chickens under her wings, but sum of them would not. An' den he went on an' met a man who invited 'im to a great supper. Yet, Laz'rus would not go, 'cause duh witch of Endor conjured up Samuel who informed 'im about the man's cookin' – it wuz always a-lukewarm. So he says to dee man, "I cannot come, for I have married a wife."

An' dee man went out into the highways an' byways an' compelled 'im to come, an' so he repented an' he ate supper with 'im, an' dey had locus' an' wild honey.

While he wuz in Jerusalem, he decided to go see Dr. Cornelius 'bout his sores.

At this point someone asked him how he knew Cornelius was a doctor. "Why," Sam replied, "The good book sez he gave much alum to the poor."

Anyway, as he wuz gwine down the street, he looks up an' he sees Queen Jezebel sitting high up in a window. An' when she saw 'im she laughed. An' when she laughed, he said, "Fling down Jezebel," an' they flung her down. An' he said again, "Fling her on down again," an' dey flung her on down. An' he said the third time, chunk her on down, till seventy times seven." An' dey chunk her on down seventy times seven, an' she busted into pieces, an' could not be numbered for the multitude dereof: an' dere wuz a great weepin' an' wailin' an' snatchin' out ub teef. An' dey picked up of her fragments twelve basketful, an' five loaves an' two small fishes.

An' I sez unto you, brethren, in the resurrection, whose wife am Jezebel gwine ter be?

There was no one in the council who felt qualified to answer the question.

The board members smiled at one another and dismissed Sam. The time had come to cast their votes. They reflected on each individual that had come before them that day and then voted. The votes were then tallied, and it was unanimous, Sam was the new preacher! All agreed that he would be an outstanding pastor for their church. He met all their qualifications and most important, he sure knew his Bible from "cover to cover."