

Esther and Emmett – February 28

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett. How are you?

Emmett: I'm fine, but life sure is funny.

Esther: What do you mean?

Emmett: Well, it used to be that when I went someplace I checked to make sure that my hair was neat, but now I check to make sure that I have my mask on properly – covering my nose, my mouth, not too loose around the edges...

Esther: We certainly want to keep everyone as safe as we can. I always have a mask with me, not that I go many places these days.

Emmett: I don't go many places either. You know what I wish?

Esther: ...that everyone would notice how neat your hair is?

Emmett: Well...yeah, but that's not what I was thinking of.

Esther: What do you wish, Emmett?

Emmett: I wish that life was always just the way I would like it to be.

Esther: How would you like life to be?

Emmett: I'd like it to be fun all the time...and every day to be sunny and warm...and every day to be my birthday, or Christmas...and for vegetables to come in chocolate flavour...and for no one to ever get sick...for everyone to have a nice home...

Esther: Wow...that would be quite a life. It sounds like no one would ever have to worry about anything.

Emmett: Right...it would be fun all the time. No one would even stub their toe anymore...I did that this morning on a chair in the kitchen...ouch!!!

Esther: That would hurt.

Emmett: You can say that again!

Esther: So...you'd like a world where you could stub your toe and not feel anything?

Emmett: Yeah...well, maybe. Maybe just a world where every day it is sunny and warm outside.

Esther: Hmmm....that sounds nice...of course, if there was never any rain then flowers wouldn't grow, and farmers couldn't grow crops...

Emmett: Oh yeah,...well, I guess there would have to be some rain...

Esther: And I suppose that if it didn't hurt when you stubbed your toe on a chair then you might just keep stubbing your toe without noticing it...I'm not sure that would actually be fun...?

Emmett: Well...I didn't think about that...(Emmett is quiet, thinking)... Esther, can I ask you something?

Esther: Sure Emmett.

Emmett: It's about God.

Esther: Lots of questions are actually about God.

Emmett: Well...God created the world, right?

Esther: Yes, this is God's world, God's creation?

Emmett: So, why didn't God make it so everything was fun? So that no one ever got hurt, or hungry, or sad?

Esther: I don't know!

Emmett: (pause)...that's it, you don't know?

Esther: Do you remember that time you said I should play Mary in the nativity play at the church?

Emmett: I sure do. I was going to be Joseph.

Esther: But then someone else got to be Mary...

Emmett: Oh...ya...

Esther: And I was kind of sad...

Emmett: Yeah, I remember...

Esther: But you came and sat bedside me and said that you were sorry I didn't get to be Mary, but then you said, "You'd have been a great Mary in the play... but every day you are a great Esther."

Emmett: You are great...you're a great friend.

Esther: And so are you, Emmett. When you said that to me, I felt both sad and happy.

Emmett: Really...you felt both sad and happy at the same time?

Esther: Yes. I think it's okay to feel both sad and happy. I don't know why God created this world this way, but I think that what Jesus tells us is that, because this is God's world, we are always loved by God.

Emmett: You mean, even when I stub my toe God will there to tell me I'm still special, even if my toe hurts?

Esther: Yes. Maybe rather than asking why people sometimes hurt, God wants us to be friends to people who hurt.

Emmett: We could tell them that they're not alone, that their friends are with them, and that God is with them.

Esther: We can remember that whether it's sunny or raining, God cares about us.

Emmett: And we care about each other.

Esther: That we live in God's world. AMEN

Emmett: AMEN