

Esther and Emmett – Feb 13 2022

Emmett: Hi Esther. I've been looking for you.

Esther: Hi Emmett. Why have you been looking for me?

Emmett: I've been looking for you because I have a question about Jesus, and you know lots about Jesus.

Esther: Well, I listen to the stories that are told in Messy Church and Sunday School, and I read the Bible, so I guess I know some things about Jesus.

Emmett: Well, I hope you can answer to my question.

Esther: I'll try. What's your question?

Emmett: My question is: 'What was the name of Jesus' horse?'

Esther: Well, that's an interesting question.

Emmett: Really? Why is it an interesting question?

Esther: It's interesting because Jesus didn't have a horse.

Emmett: I think he did.

Esther: No, he didn't.

Emmett: Well, he talked like he had a horse.

Esther: What do you mean.

Emmett: He spoke like he had a horse. I read in the Bible that Jesus used a word that people use when they are riding a horse.

Esther: Really! What word!

Emmett: Jesus said, "Whoa!" - you know, like when someone is riding a horse and they want the horse to slow down or stop, they say, "Whoa!"

Esther: Jesus said that to a horse?

Emmett: Well, not exactly, but he said it to some people, so I think he must have been used to saying it while riding his horse.

Esther: Oh, I think I know what you read in the Bible.

Emmett: I read about Jesus saying 'Whoa'!

Esther: You read about Jesus saying 'Woe!'...but that's not the same as saying 'whoa' to a horse.

Emmett: Whoa! Stop right there. You mean, there is more than one 'Whoa' word?

Esther: Yes. There is the 'Whoa' that you say to make a horse stop, or sometimes people say it when they are surprised.

Emmett: So, when you told me that there is another word that sounds like 'Whoa', I was surprised, -so I could have said "Whoa"?

Esther: Yes, you could have. That word is spelled 'W-H-O-A', but there is a word spelled 'W-O-E'.

Emmett: Whoa! What does the other 'woe' mean?

Esther: That 'woe' means that there is trouble, or things are difficult, or you feel that life is difficult, or you are sad or upset.

Emmett: So, if I feel sad....

Esther: You could say, 'Woe is me!'

Emmett: Jesus said 'woe is you'. Jesus said 'woe to you who are rich' and 'woe to you who are full now' and 'woe to you when all speak well of you.'

Esther: I remember the story in the Bible where Jesus says these 'woes', but before Jesus said 'woe to you', he said that some people were blessed.

Emmett I think I would rather have Jesus tell me I was blessed than say 'woe' to me!

Esther: People would have been surprised by whom Jesus said were blessed. Jesus said that the poor were blessed, and the hungry were blessed, and people who wept were blessed and when people were blessed when others complained about them because they were friends of Jesus.

Emmett: The poor and the hungry and the sad and the people who were picked on because of Jesus...they were blessed! They were blessed! That doesn't sound right! When you're blessed, aren't you happy? When you are blessed, doesn't something good happen to you?

Esther: Sometimes when we say a person is blessed we are saying that God loves that person and is with that person.

Emmett: Whoa! I like that!

Esther: Maybe in the Bible story we are talking about, Jesus surprised people by telling people who were full of woe – the sadness kind of woe – that they were blessed, and telling all the people who thought they were blessed that they had woes – the problems kind of woe.

Emmett: I think you need to slow down for me to understand – whoa!

Esther: Well, some people had very wealthy and some people were very poor, and maybe the people who were very wealthy just wanted to have lots of money and stuff and didn't care about anyone else.

Emmett: So, Jesus would have said it's a problem when you don't care about other people too, because God cares about everyone.

Esther: I think you understand.

Emmett: Whoa! Wait a minute. I just thought of something!

Esther: What?

Emmett: Well, it's kind of confusing...

Esther: Just try to tell me what you were thinking.

Emmett: Well, Jesus said the 'W-O=E' woe, meaning that the people who thought life was great, actually had some problems because they weren't caring about other people.

Esther: Right.

Emmett: But...this is the confusing part, but I also think it's kind of clever...Jesus could have said the other 'whoa' – the W-H-O-A 'whoa', to tell the people that they had to stop living the way they were living and start living like God wanted them to live – to start loving other people so that other people didn't have to be hungry and poor.

Esther: Oh Emmett! That is kind of clever.

Emmett: Whoa! Sometimes I even surprise myself.

Esther: I feel blessed to know that God loves everyone!

Emmett: Yes, blessed are those ...who are blessed by God.

Esther: And who share God's love.

Emmett: I feel blessed that we had this talk. But this is probably a good time to stop.

Esther: Okay.

Emmett: Maybe we should say Whoa!

Esther: I think we can just say 'Amen.'

Emmett: Amen!