

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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MAN TO MAN  
By Hazel T. Harston  
(with illustration #6)

Mother came to the foot of the stairs and called, "Hurry Jamie and Jim, you will be late for school."

"Coming, Mother," replied Jamie and Jim at the same time.

Jamie rushed from the bathroom where she had been washing her hands and picked up her books. As she went down the stairs, she called, "Last one at school is a rotten egg!"

Jim said half to himself, "Now who cares if they're a rotten egg? I bet Jamie forgot to make her bed she was rushing so much."

Jim, who was eight, walked into Jamie's room and looked around. "No, she has done everything," he said. It was then Jim saw Jamie's watch on the table.

This watch had been given to Jamie by grandfather on her eleventh birthday. Jim picked it up and looked at it. How he wished he had one, but they said he was not old enough. Looking intently at the watch he thought, "The watch won't do anybody any good here on the table all day. Jamie won't be back until after school is out. If I wore it just this once, I could hurry home after school and put it back. I don't believe grandfather would mind this once."

Then he heard, "Jim, it's time for you to go."

"I'm ready, Mother," Jim called as he put the watch on his left arm, ran down stairs and out of the house to school.

At school that day Jim kept looking at the watch every few minutes sayint to himself, "Five more minutes and the bell will ring." He felt like, when everyone looked at him, they thought, "I wish I had a watch like Jim has."

He looked at his watch again. The time was 9:30. In thirty minutes it would be play time. The two boys who sat close by began to snigger and giggle. When he looked up, Tommy whispered, "Jim is a sissie. Jim is a sissie. He's wearing a girl's watch."

Jim whispered back, "I am not either," and quickly took the watch from his arm and put it in his pocket.

Soon the 10:00 o'clock bell rang, and all the children went out to play. Jim had such a good time he forgot about Jamie's watch in his pocket.

Noon time came and it was then Jim felt in his pocket for Jamie's watch. He wanted to know how much time he had to play before the bell rang. The watch was not there.

Jim's heart sank to the bottom of his shoes. What was he to do? He asked Mr. Simmons, the principal, if anyone had turned in a watch. Mr. Simmons told him no one had found a watch.

Jim then asked his teacher, Miss Abbie. She told him there had been no watch turned in to her.

All that afternoon Jim was very worried. He dreaded to go home.

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When Jim had to go home, instead of playing with Jamie, he avoided her as much as possible.

Supper time came. When all the family was at the table, Father said, "Jim, Jamie tells me her watch is missing. Do you know anything about it?"

Jim said, "Father, I don't know anything about Jamie's watch. Now if you will excuse me, I'll go up to my room. I'm not very hungry."

That night Father went up to Jim's room for their regular "Man to Man" talk the two had every night.

When Father walked in, Jim blurted out, "I did borrow Jamie's watch just to wear one day at school, Father. I lost it at school. I'm sorry but that won't bring it back."

Father placed one hand on Jim's shoulder. With the other hand he brought Jamie's watch out and held it before Jim.

Father said, "Jim, I'm proud that you had the courage to tell me about the watch. Mr. Simmons saw me on the street and gave it to me to bring home. Someone found it on the school yard. Let's shake hands "Man to Man" and get a good night's sleep. Good night, son. I'm glad you told me."

"Good night, Father, I can sleep well now," Jim answered.

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#### WHAT AM I?

By Ellen Brown

I sparkle like silver  
And have currents too  
And banks on both sides  
For me to run through.

And yet I'm not money  
Though it sounds that way,  
With silver and currents,  
And banks that don't pay.

Ans: river.

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