

PETE THE PATIENT

John *(Gets people to call for Pete ... three times!)*

Pete *(Struggling to get there and bandaged - appears, groaning)*

John Good grief, Pete, what's happened to you?

Pete *(In a self pitying tone)* Well, it's this month's theme, John. I really like to get in the mood. So here I am.

John You look absolutely crippled, Pete. What did you do?

Pete *(with appropriate photos)* explains what extreme events he's messed up like, maybe paragliding into a point on the church roof or parachuting with a parachute with holes in it

John Ouch! That really is extreme, Pete. But what's it got to do with our theme this week.

Pete Well, I had to make a mess of myself to be a patient ...

John A patient?

Pete Yes, you know, a patient in hospital.

John *(Big sigh)* You oaf!

Pete Steady on, John. I've been reading my Bible and it says in Matthew chapter 5, "Don't call a brother 'idiot' or a sister 'stupid' - you'll be on the brink of hellfire."

John It also says, "Do not lie to each other." And the truth is that you're an oaf, Pete.

Pete I'm really upset, John. I thought you were a kind, considerate and nice person. I've made all these sacrifices so I can testify about being a patient in hospital and tell people about this month's theme.

John It's not about being a patient in hospital, Pete. It's about patience - about being even-tempered, tolerant, cool, composed. It's nothing to do with being bandaged and in hospital! Patience isn't even about waiting - it's about having a good attitude while waiting.

Pete **WHAT!!*** You mean I've been going through all this for nothing?

John So sorry, Pete. Please do tell us what it was like.

Pete *(Annoyed)* Well, John, I've had absolutely no sympathy. I at least expected Sue to bring me a bunch of grapes but she said she was too busy with REAL people to worry about a puppet that needed a bit of sewing back together. And after all I've done to make these Family Services interesting I hoped the church would fork out a little bit of money to pay for treatment but that church treasurer over there said she wasn't paying anything for an old faded puppet and - get this, John - that you'd be better buying a new puppet and putting me on e-bay

John Sounds like your feelings are really hurt, Pete.

Pete Dead right, John. And I know what you've done as well! You've put a bid in to the Diocese for a brand new puppet to replace me . Called Jenni! *(show picture of Jenni)*.

John Hold on, Pe...

Pete And I thought you were a friend. *(Self pitying again)* Going behind my back to get a replacement. Here am I stuck in this church most of the month with nobody to talk to. And there you are, secretly planning to get rid of me.

John But, Pe ...

Pete After all I've done. And I thought you and Sue were my friends ... calling me an oaf was the last straw, John. I think I'm going to cry...

John *(John gets the audience to go Aaaaagh!)*

Actually Pete, we love you. Don't we Scampton? And nobody wants to get rid of you. That isn't what Jesus would do.

Pete *(Hopefully)* You didn't really want to get rid of me?

John No, we always joke with you, Pete. What we wanted to do was get you a friend. So we're trying to get some money together to buy a friend for you. And we know you like your house here but we thought we might try to get you some bigger staging. Do you like the look of Jenni, Pete?

Pete Wow, John, she's gorgeous. Do you think we could change her name and call her Pat? Then we could be the Pete and Pat show!

John We could ask her.

Pete But what do you mean when you say that Jesus wouldn't get rid of me?

John *(Explains and reads letter from Management consultants)*.

So, you see, Pete, even though Jesus' disciples had loads of faults he kept them and loved them. He showed PATIENCE. He waits for them to develop and grow wise and HE KEEPS A GOOD ATTITUDE WHILE WAITING.

Pete So, you're saying I'm stupid like the disciples?

John No, Pete, I'm saying that none of us are perfect. Jesus was patient with the disciples even though they had absolutely no idea what he was doing most of the time. I'm not perfect, Pete. Will you still love me and be patient with me even when I get it wrong? Will you forgive me when I upset you?

Pete Err ... Ummm ... Err ... Yes ... especially if you buy Jenni for me!