

Children's sermon: December 8, 2010

"Slowing down ... and listening"

Fred is a "busy little man" this season ----- rushing from one thing to another.
I think of this song ... by Simon and Garfunkel: "Slow down, you move too fast ..."
Fred ---- always on the "go" parties and shopping ... trying to get it all done!@!!

Hey, I have a question for you ... just between you and me.
Do your parents get a little "nuts" this time of the year???
Busy? Goofy? Crabby?

Every day ... it's something else.
Fred runs right by his church. He never goes in ... he's too busy.

He runs by this old stump ... with a Christmas stocking hanging there.
Hardly even notices it ... why? ---- he's too busy.

But then one day ...
he actually slows down.
He sees the stump ... and says to himself: "I am stumped!! I think I hear a voice."
He looks down at the Christmas stocking ---- my gosh, the voice is coming from inside the stocking.
Fred hears the words ---- "help me, help me."

Fred looks into the stocking.
It's little Michelle's voice. "Can you help me???"

Fred wonders: "What's wrong???"

Michelle ... with tears in her eyes ... says to Fred.
"I'm all alone. I have nowhere to go ... no one to be with this Christmas.
I need help."

Fred begins to realize ...
He's been so "busy" doing stuff ... all "stuff" that he wants to do ...
He's not listening. People like Michelle ----- who are alone this Christmas ... they need people
who will listen to them and be with them.

Fred helps Michelle get out of the stocking.
"Michelle ... you don't have to be alone this Christmas. You can be with
me and my family. I'm sorry it took so long for me to hear you.
I'm not going to let that happen anymore."

Well ----- Fred has slowed down.
He listens more.
He wants to make this moment last.

And for you, my friends ----- a big stocking ... with a little friend inside.
How about slowing down ... and listening.
LOVE YOU ALL!!