

Children's sermon: October 28, 2018

**"All wound-up"**

So, I'm getting ready to put Mark back into his apartment in my closet ... and he belts out:  
NO, REV ----- I NEED TO BE WITH THE KIDS AGAIN TODAY!!  
You know? ... our two wheel-chair bound friends – Melody and Mark – they are two of the most  
stubborn and opinionated kids I've ever met???

What's going on Mark??? ... what are you so wound-up about??

Mark appreciates what you-all did for him last week.  
Remember? ---- he goes to a Halloween party ... dressed-up as a Chicago Bulls basketball player.  
And some of the kids make fun of him ... 'cause he can't walk, and he has to wear a helmet.  
But ... when he comes here ... with you: HE FEELS SO GOOD.  
HE WALKS TALL ... he feels God's spirit when he's around you.

Anyway ----- Mark finds out there are a bunch of kids who don't feel good about themselves.

See this here bucket???

Well ---- it's no "love bucket" ... some people call it the "yuck-bucket."  
There's a whole bunch of kids who hide in here ... just because they look a bit different and  
aren't accepted by others.

Here is Tony. OK --- he is a multi-colored guy ... looks a little out-of-the-ordinary.  
And when someone makes fun of him ... he escapes into the yuck-bucket.

Same with Agnes. Blue face. Pink hair. Long nose.  
She's pretty, isn't she??? .... well ... she doesn't think so. She comes out, only briefly ...  
then hops back into the yuck-bucket. She doesn't think anyone will ever like her or love her.

Well ----- this kind-of stuff gets Mark "all wound-up."  
He makes a special trip to the yuck-bucket. Sits up tall in his wheelchair ..... and yells out:  
"Hey ... all of you in the yuck-bucket ... come on out of there ----- NOW!@!!  
This is your buddy Mark ... I have something to say!@!!"

As he begins to talk ... there is a song in the background.  
Do you hear it, my friends?? Of course .....it's Billy Joel: "I love you just the way you are."

Yes, Mark is on fire ... he's "wound-up." No wonder he insists on being here today.  
He wants all of you to know: GOD LOVES YOU, JUST THE WAY YOU ARE!!

Well ..... these little "dudes" and "dudettes" hear Mark's message. They all start coming out of the  
yuck-bucket ... and they are "wound-up." Look at them move!@!! They are looking for a new  
bucket ----- we know it as the LOVE BUCKET.

Take a couple of these little guys and girls home with you.  
Wind them up ... and let them know:  
GOD LOVE ALL OF US ... JUST THE WAY WE ARE!!