

Children's sermon: December 14, 2008

"The magic hat"

Poor Rudolph ... having a bad day.

The magic seems to be gone in his life ... but ----- he has to step it up a notch ... because the big day is coming ... and lots of kids like you are counting on Rudolph.

I have a guest with us today ... I'd like you to meet ST. NICK!!

St. Nick is a bit concerned about what's bothering Rudolph ... and this is precisely why St. Nick has brought his magic hat. Looks like a regular-ol' Santa hat to most of us ... ahhhhhhh, but it's much more.

St. Nick comes up to Rudolph --- "What is bugging you????"

I guess there is a lot that's not right with Rudolph this year:

*Rudolph has been pretty selfish, for some reason.

*Rudolph hasn't done very well in school ... he's not trying as hard as he should.

*He's been a bit of bad sport on the soccer team.

*He hasn't been nice to his parents ... or his brothers and sisters.

*He doesn't like church or Sunday School ---- can you believe this????

*Plus ---- Rudolph is sad about what's going on in the world so many people struggling.

It's kind-of like for Rudolph (and for us!!) ----- LIFE IS A DECK OF CARDS ...
BUT WHEN THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL OR WE ARE SAD OR ANGRY ... WELL,
OUR DECK ISN'T AS FULL AS WE WOULD LIKE IT.

"OK, Rudolph ..." says St. Nick ... "Let's take all that is bothering you ... and put it into my magic hat ... and I'm going to make THE BAD STUFF disappear.
Rudolph shakes his head in disbelief ... but St. Nick insists.

One by one ... Rudolph puts some of his cards into the "magic hat."

One card for being selfish ... another for not trying in school ... this one for being a bad sport ...

Yup --- one card for each thing bothering him.

There are six cards in St. Nick's magic hat ... right?

OK ... Nick ... work your magic.

Nick closes his eyes.

He waves his hand over the hat.

LET'S LOOK INSIDE ----- GONE ... THE CARDS ARE GONE!!

St. Nick turns his hat inside out to prove they are gone ... and they are.

How does he do it? No more anger ... no more selfishness ... no more bad attitude about soccer or the church.

Yes, there is a lot wrong with the world ... but we can make it better!@!!

Why? ... because these things don't have to have power over us.

St. Nick and Christmas ... they have a message of goodness and hope. It's something God gives us everyday!! ----- say GOOD-BYE to all this bad stuff!!

And for each of you? ----- your very own magic hat.

And to you, St. Nick ----- thanks for being with us today.

Yes ... the "magic" is back. And the bad attitude ---- GONE!