

Children's sermon: November 30, 2008

**"Lemont"**

Big game last night in Champaign, Illinois ... Lemont High School was in the state championship football game.

They lost the game ... but they won our hearts.

How many of you are from Lemont????? Do you think ... if Jesus ever comes back ... maybe it will be in Lemont? ---- you never know.

You remember our "stump friends" ... right? It's a tough time to be a tree stump. Everyone cuts their fresh Christmas tree ... and throw away the stump. Unless you are lucky enough to be one of the stumps that lands at All Saints Lutheran Church. Anyway --- back to our stump-friends later.

First there is this goof ---- Mr. "It's all about me."

His son was on the winning team ... and all he can do is GLOAT!!

In fact ... on his way home ... he runs into our stumps and makes fun of them.

"Tough being a stump, isn't it??? ... what are you doing here anyway? ... there is really no use for you!@!

But the way ---- my team won!! Everyone else is a loser!!"

Early this morning ... these Lemont fans are almost home.

Hey ... it's a long walk from Champaign, IL to Lemont. They are tired ... and a little bit sad.

It's tough to come so close to being the champion and then not making it. But ..... they are proud. Their kids played hard ... and their kids are good sports.

Anyway ---- they see these four stumps.

And they ask the stumps ----- "Would it be ok if we rest on you??? We are so tired. And ---- we know how giving & understanding you stumps can be."

The stumps smile. They like to be needed ... and they are always honored when someone uses them as a place to rest.

"Please, my friends ... come and rest ... this is why we are here."

The Lemont football fans rest on the stumps. They begin to feel much better ... and are about ready to finish their walk home.

"Before you leave us ..." the lead stump begins to talk ... "we have a present for you.

It looks like an ordinary football ... but it's not. It's a *love ball*. Your team is a great football team ...

but most of all ---- they are good guys. Good sports. Good people. This is what life is all about.

When you squeeze this ball ... you feel good inside. Please take it ... as a reminder of what is important in life."

The Lemont folks are so happy. They lose the game ... but they win peoples' hearts ... by the way they play and live.

THIS IS ONE OF GOD'S GREATEST HOPES FOR HIS PEOPLE ... that they will always live with class and goodness.

And for each of you? ... your very own "love-ball."

WAY TO GO, LEMONT HIGH SCHOOL!!