

Children's sermon: August 16, 2009

**"One of a kind!!"**

I have a song for you .... not very religious ... but listen.  
Who is it???? ---- Kenny Rogers ... singing "The Gambler."

Remember last Sunday? I gave each of you a "piggy bank" ----- with money in it!@!!  
We talked about friendship ... people you can "bank on" ... and we suggested ----- maybe you can use this  
money to help someone out!!

Well ... last Sunday ... Fred and his buddy Frank are talking after church. Frank says ----- "Fred ... Pastor Don  
says the same thing every Sunday. Give ... give ... and it will come back to you. This is crazy ... it's not how  
life works. We should take our money ... maybe do a bit of gambling ... and try to get more."  
Fred doesn't like what he hears ... he just kind-of goes his own way.

After church last week ... Frank goes to a place and does a bit of gambling ... hoping to take the money he was  
given in church ... and turning it into more money.  
Frank loves DICE ... so he plays this game ... where if you roll the dice and get "two of a kind" ... well,  
you win. Frank wins a bit ... he loses a bit ----- then he goes for the BIG ONE!!  
He gets three DICE ... now ... if you get "3 of a kind" ----- you win lots of money!!  
Frank keeps rolling the dice ... and after a while ... HE LOSES EVERYTHING!@!! He has no money left.

This morning ... Fred and Frank come into the church.  
Frank is empty ... no money.  
But look at Fred ----- he is full.  
Frank looks at Fred ----- WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS MONEY??  
Fred smiles a bit ...

*"I'm not really sure exactly how it happened.  
During the week I saw a few people who needed help ----- my little brother needed some cash for school  
supplies ... a kid at school forget her lunch money ... so, I shared what little I had.  
But ... the more I shared ... the more I got ----- weird!@!! ... maybe this love-and-church-and-love-  
bucket-stuff really does work!@!!  
By the way, Frank ... what happened to all your money???"*

My friends ... you know what happened.

Actually --- this story isn't about money ... it's about life.  
You may not have much money ... you may think you don't have much at all ...  
BUT ----- whatever you have ... you need to share it with the world!@!! And what do we get back? ...  
well, it's a feeling. A feeling of goodness and helping others.

This is what God does for us everyday.

Oh, I have a gift for you. Here's a couple dice. Now ---- you can roll these and try to get "two of a kind."  
But remember ----- this is God's world ... and you are ONE OF KIND!@!  
There is no one else exactly like you ... BECAUSE YOU ARE A GIFT.