

Children's 'sermon: April 4, 2010 (Easter Sunday)

"The invisible gift"

Anyone have a goofy aunt? ... is she named WALMA???

Is anyone named "Walma" anymore??

Fred loved his aunt. At Easter she would give him beautiful Easter baskets like this ----- full of flowers, full of stuff and candy. She read him stories. She often got confused ... and would start reading Christmas stories at Easter time ... and vice versa. But it was fun ... Walma was always full of love.

She did tell him "Someday ... when you get older ... you will find an EASTER BASKET ... and it will teach you the true meaning of what it means to GIVE!!"

For years ... Fred didn't think about this much ... until one day ... in his older years ...

he is taking a walk.

He comes across something ... let's see what it is.

IT'S A LOVE BUCKET.

"I wonder if this is what Walma was talking about years ago?????"

Fred is older ... but he still has a child-like spirit. He can't wait to look inside.

He climbs up on top of the bucket ... looks inside ...

See the expression on his face???!@!! ----- this is what your face would look like if you found NOTHING!!

The bucket is empty!!

As Fred starts to walk away ... he feels something "inside" ---- inside his heart, inside his soul.

He thinks of his family ... his friends ... his church.

He thinks of all the people who love him ... and all the people he loves.

He thinks of God ... Jesus ... and all the goodness they bring into his life.

He goes back to the LOVE BUCKET ... and then begins to understand what his aunt Walma was always talking about.

The bucket isn't empty ... IT IS FULL.

Full of love ... and memories ... and goodness. Full of God's love ... and the love Jesus brings to his life.

My young friends ---- is there any way a BUCKET CAN CONTAIN GOD'S LOVE???

Is there any way a bucket can contain how much I love you and you love me?? ... how much your family loves you and you love them????? Can God's love for us fit inside of a bucket?????? --- no way!!

So, today ... my friends your gift is INVISIBLE!! The "gift of love" ----- the "dollar store" can't contain it ... the biggest "love bucket" in the world can't contain it it spills into your heart-and-soul everyday. How about that??? You can go to your seats ... yes, you can ...

Something wrong??? ... oh, the gift.

Well ---- the "invisible gift" is the most important one ... but ... IT IS EASTER.

And it's fun sharing stuff. There is our "youth group" ... and ----- THEY HAVE A NICE PRESENT FOR YOU!@!!

A joyous and love-filled Easter to all of you.