

Children's sermon: February 21, 2010
"Being different"

FRED IS DIFFERENT. What does that mean????
We're all "different" ... each of us is "one of a kind" ... each of us is special and unique.
But, for some reason ... Fred is seen as being "REALLY DIFFERENT."

Maybe it 's the same hat he wears to school every day. It has his grandparents' names on the front.
Would you wear this hat to school? ... didn't think so.
Fred is Edna's friend. Edna is purple ... so kids make fun of her. She has no friends ... Fred has no friends ... so, they
have become each other's friend. Lots of the kids make fun of both of them.

There is a little old man who lives down the block from Fred.
Every day ... after school ... Fred goes to his house ... and they watch cartoons together.
The old man is lonely ... and Fred makes him feel good.
Fred is lonely ... so he likes spending time with his old friend.
Some of the kids make fun of Fred for this.

Kids can be cruel to those who are different.
It's called DISREPECT.
Do you know what "disrespect" sounds like? ----- listen.
Remember this song? from "Tarzan"???? It's glass breaking. When you disrespect someone ... like these "sad sack"
goofs are disrespecting Fred and Edna ... well, you BREAK THEIR HEARTS.
And ----- you break God's commandment: TO LOVE SOMEONE ELSE, JUST LIKE GOD LOVES YOU!!

This "sad sack" needs to spend some time with you ... he needs a little dose of the LOVE BUCKET!!
So, let's take him ... throw him in this BIG BUCKET OF LOVE ... and see what happens.
He goes in.
He comes out.
LOOK ----- HE IS DIFFERENT. He looks happy ... he looks full of love.

Listen again ... this is what RESPECT SOUNDS LIKE!
Voices singing.
Voices caring.
Voices loving each other.

RESPECT. LOVE. ENJOYING EACH OTHER'S DIFFERENCES ... instead of
making fun of them. This is what life is all about.

For each of you ----- a friend from the love bucket.
Yes, Fred is different.
So are you.
So am I.
It's all part of what makes God's world go-round.