

Children's sermon: November 28, 2010
"Stump of LOVE"

Ol' Uncle Fred ----- he is an old tattered boot, with nowhere to go.
He's all by himself ... no place to lay his head. He's tired and lonely.

This morning he is walking by our church ... and he sees the Christmas tree stumps just outside the front door.
Tree stumps are pretty special around here. Yes, they get cut-off the bottoms of our Christmas trees ... but, in God's kingdom, they still have a purpose.

Fred comes up to the BIG STUMP ----- the one from our big Christmas tree.

Ol' Uncle Fred doesn't like to ask for help ... but, he does. No place to rest ... no money to buy even a small cup of coffee.

"Mr. Stump, can you help me???? Can I rest on you? ... can you spare a little change for a small breakfast???"

The stump looks at this big old man. Uncle Fred is a tattered boot. He is scuffed up ... his laces aren't tied ... he just looks old and worn out.

Finally the stump responds: "You are too big for me. I'm afraid ----- if you rest on me ... well, you might hurt me. Now ... let me look inside my bucket. Yes, I have some money in here ... but ----- if I give some to you ... there might not be enough left for me. Sorry, old man ---- I can't help you!!"

Whoa!@!! ... talk about a SELFISH STUMP!!

Ol' Uncle Fred starts to leave. Tired, and very hungry.

He sees a tiny little stump near the other door of the church. The stump is so small ... so, Fred just kind-of limps on by.

But the little stump stops him.

"Sir ----- why don't you come and rest on me. And ... I will look inside my bucket to see if I can buy you some eggs and coffee for breakfast ..."

Fred, the old scuffed-up boot, responds: *"You are too small ... I may hurt you. I'll just keep on going ..."*

Well ... this tiny stump from the small tree ----- she won't take "NO" for an answer.

She insists that Fred rest on her ... and ---- HE DOES.

Fred is big ... the stump is small ... but both of them feel good.

Our little stump friend has a bucket ... and, as you can hear, she doesn't have much money. But ... she takes her bucket ... tips it over .. and empties what little money she has into this old boot named Fred.

You can't do that ... shouts Fred ... there is nothing left for you!@!!

It's all yours, old man ... responds the stump ... I've been taught ----- *WHEN YOU GIVE ... SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY, IT COMES BACK TO YOU!@!!*

The old boot is gone now. But, at least for a few moments ... he found a bit of kindness.

Anyway ----- on Christmas morning ... the big stump expects "big things." He can't wait to open his bucket ... to see "how full" it is. He opens his bucket ----- and there is NOTHING!@!!

Our little stump ... she gets up on Christmas morning ... and, as usual, doesn't expect much.

She opens her bucket ... just for fun ... and she can't believe what she sees. IT IS FULL ... OVERFLOWING ...

The big stump reflects ... yes, maybe I shouldn't have been so selfish when the old boot needed help.

The little stump reflects ... I'm blessed ... and now I have more to give.

Sometimes we act like the big stump ... yes, we can be a bit selfish.

Hopefully ... we've learned ----- being the "little stump" ... it's fun, it's rewarding ... not always easy.

I have a little bucket for each of you. Enjoy it ... take care of it ... enjoy what's inside, too.