

Children's sermon: August 28, 2011

**"Hero"**

Do any of you have great-grandfathers?????

What a gift.

Fred's girl-friend Jena has a great-grandpa. But there is a problem ..... Jena always seems too busy to visit him.

I'd like you to meet Jena's great-grandpa.

He lives alone. He is very sad. Why? ----- because nobody pays any attention to him anymore.

Jena is "too busy" at college. Even his own "children" don't take time to come and have coffee.

Great grandpa Al is lonely.

Great grandpa remembers what it was like when he was a kid ... going to church.

The minister would invite all the kids to come forward ... he would tell them a crazy story about this guy named Fred ... maybe play a song ... and then give all the kids a "stupid" toy!@!!

Great grandpa Al loved it.

He laughed and smiled with all the other kids.

And ----- HE KEPT ALL THE TOYS. So, this morning ... he goes into his closet ... takes out all the old toys ... spreads them out ... and remembers every story that went with every toy.

Look at these!@!!

*The combination lock ... yes, the right "combination" of love and joy.*

*The sun-glasses ... "see the light ..."*

*Jesus' sandals      the golf balls (that's par for the course!!)      styro-foam cups*

*fuzzy animals      skinny Santa Claus      the goof-ball who doesn't fit in*

Here you are, my friends ... it is POT-LUCK SUNDAY ... thanks to great grandpa Al.

As Al is remembering and reminiscing ... he hears music ... let's listen.

Al starts to smile ... the song is "Hero" ... sounds Like Mariah Carey .... it really does ...

and guess who walks in?????

**HIS GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER JENA!!**

They hug. They cry. And Jena says to her grandpa:

*"I'm so sorry. All I think about is myself and all the stuff I do.*

*And here you are ----- all by yourself. This won't happen anymore. You are my hero, grandpa.*

*You have taught me what it means to be a good and giving person ... it's about time I showed it."*

My friends ----- we only go around once in life. Please ---- don't forget those who love you.

Parents. Grandparents. Great grandparents. The little old man down the block.

Take time. Visit. Say "I love you" ...

And ... on your way back to your seat .... help yourself to this incredible "altar of love."

The "toys" don't belong in a closet ... they belong in your heart.