

Children's sermon: July 17, 2011  
**'Money, money, money .... and PEACE'**

What is the greatest gift of all???? .... oh, well ... let's talk about it.  
Now ... just between you and me ----- do you have anyone in your family who drives you  
absolutely nuts??? Let's keep it between you and me.

In Fred's family ... it's his DAD.  
Mr. Fred ----- he worries so much about money.  
He worries about how much he will spend on their vacation. How can I ever pay for your school?  
The church ... always talking about money. The pastor ---- we PAY HIM TOO MUCH!!  
I can't afford to give you an allowance.  
Going out to dinner ----too much money.  
Going to a movie??? ... too expensive.

One day ... Fred's little friend MATTIE comes over.  
Mattie is a cool kid. He gets around in a wheelchair ... loves to sing and write poetry.  
Today he is at Fred's house ... and he hears Fred's dad talking about money.  
Mattie goes up to Mr. Fred.  
"How are you, Mr. Fred" ... Mattie smiles.  
"I'm fine ... but I hope you don't need any money ... 'cause I don't have any!@!!"

Mattie starts to chuckle. "Mr. Fred ---- I have a song for you?"  
"Do I have to pay for it?" ... snaps Mr. Fred.  
NO ---- JUST LISTEN.  
(Mattie sings the song: *"Don't worry ... be happy."*)

"What kind of song is that?" ... snaps Mr. Fred.  
"It is what it is, Mr. Fred. You worry too much. And when you think about money all the time ...  
well ---- it takes away your happiness. I have a gift for you. It actually lives inside each one of us.  
It's from God. It's good. It helps."

"Are you some kind-of preacher now, Mattie???"  
NO ... JUST A PERSON ... WHO CARES ABOUT YOU. HERE. HERE IS MY GIFT.

Let's look inside Mattie's soul ... and see what it is he is giving Mr. Fred.  
Isn't this nice?? It's a bracelet. With a "peace sign."  
I'm giving one to each of you. In fact ... since it's summer ... and there aren't many of you here ...  
how about ---- I give you two. You can share one.

Like Mattie ----- share the gift of PEACE.  
God's gift to us ... and our gift to each other.