

Children's Message
9.28.08

Good morning.

Look what I brought with me this morning. A crown. It is beautiful, isn't it??? I know I have told you before that I was a high school teacher. The district I taught in was really different than the districts around here. We had only one school and all kindergarteners through 12th graders shared the same building. So, while I was in the halls, I would see the elementary aged children traveling to gym or art or music or lunch and the line leader often had on a crown because it was that child's birthday. When it was their birthday they would be the king or queen for a day. They not only were the line leaders, but they got to take the attendance record to the main office and even reported the weather to the class. Of course, everyone loves celebrating their birthday in school- other kids get to watch you doing special things and everyone looks forward to the day when they get to wear the crown.

Would you like to be a king or queen in real life? You usually get to live in a palace and you have lots of money, silver and gold and jewels. Kings and queens are surrounded by servants who get them anything they want. Everyone looks up to them and admires them. Wouldn't it be fun to be treated like a king or queen everyday?

Well, today we need to think about a different kind of king: a king who took off his crown and gave up his throne to become a servant. That King is Jesus. The Bible tells us that Jesus put aside his Godly nature and came to earth as a real person and became a servant. When Jesus was on earth he spent his entire life in service to others. He healed the sick, he fed the hungry, and he was a friend to those who had no friends. Jesus never lived in a palace. He had no money, no silver, no gold, and no jewels. The only crown he ever wore on earth was a crown of thorns.

Now, if I was to ask you this morning if you would like to be like Jesus, most of you would probably say, "yes." Yes- we want to help the sick, yes- we want to feed the hungry, yes- we want to be a friend to those who have no friends. But that isn't the question this morning. The question is: "Would you rather be a servant or a king?" Now that is a very difficult choice, isn't it? Jesus chose to be a servant, and if we want to be like him, we must make the same choice.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?