

Children's Message

September 23, 2018

Good morning! Today we get to talk about FOREVER. What does that mean to some of you? Forever? We say to our parents I'll love you forever! We tell our friends you are my Best Friend Forever. And those are both very true – we can love forever!

What about this apple, will it last forever? And this pumpkin, what happens if we keep these too long, it will go bad and rot, correct? What about our toys. Did you love something so much, and now you don't really need it anymore? Like a favorite blanket or teddy bear that you like to sleep with? We think we will have them forever, but sometimes we grow out of them and no longer need them to make us feel safe.

The lesson in church today is about Paul's journey to Jerusalem. Every place that Paul traveled the Holy Spirit warned him that prison and hardships were facing him. Paul perseveres in the mission of sharing the Good News because he is enabled by the Holy Spirit to do the work he has been called to do. In Acts 21 we will learn that believers who obey what God tells them to do are enabled by the Holy Spirit to face any situation – he is with him FOREVER!

We may outgrow our need for a Teddy Bear or a security blanket -- at least, we don't carry it around with us all the time -- but we never outgrow the need for the comfort and guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Everything in the world changes – including us! We get older every day! But the Bible tells us that some things never change. Malachi 3:6 says, "I, the Lord do not change." So, God doesn't change. And Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever." So, Jesus never changes. And in Matthew 24:35 Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." So, Jesus' words never change.

So when things all around us are constantly changing, it can be a little scary. But we can always count on God and Jesus to stay the same forever. And we can count on them to always love us and to always be there for us.

Let's pray: *Heavenly Father, we thank you that no matter how much things around us change, you will never leave us or stop loving us. Help us to love you back and to always stay true to you as well. We ask this in Jesus' Holy Name. Amen*

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