

Really Wanting Something

Children's Message, Palisades Presbyterian Church

by Bill Menke, April 29, 2007

As you know from last week, my name is Bill. I am very pleased to be here talking with you again. We're going to sit like we did last week, looking towards the back of the Church. Just like last week, there could be someone waving at us from the front of the church right now [Pastor Ray begins to wave] trying to get our attention. What do we have to do to find out? That's right, Turn Around! There's Ray waving. Come down and join us, Ray!

Now I want you to think carefully. Has there ever been something that you really, really wanted. You waited and waited and then finally - you got it! Maybe it was a toy. Maybe it was clothes. Maybe it was another kind of special *thing*. It's different for everyone.

This happened to me a few years ago. I saw a movie in which there was a character who I really liked, and who has a special thing. And I said to myself, "That's a really neat thing. I really wish that I had one". And then a little later, while I was reading a magazine, I saw an advertisement that said you could actually buy one. But it was very expensive, so I had to save my money for a long while. In the meantime, I tore the picture out of the magazine and carried it around in my pocket. Eventually, I had enough money to order it, but then I had to wait for it to come in the mail. It took a long time to come, but it did! I carefully opened the box, and inside was another little box [displaying the box]. My hands were shaking when I opened it [opening it]. And as you can see, my special thing was a ring [putting it on my finger]. I was very happy! Those of you who can read can see from the writing on the box what movie I had seen¹.

You remember last week that told you that the first words that Jesus said when he began to teach us were, "Turn around, for God's Time is near!" Many of us said to ourselves, what does Jesus mean, "God's Time". What *is* "God's Time". But what Jesus told us next was not what God's Time was, but rather *how much we should want it*. He said², "God's Time is like a man who makes jewelry. One day he sees a beautiful pearl on sale at a market. Oh, he really wants that pearl, but it is very, very expensive. So he sells all the other things that he has and goes and buys it." So you see, the story he told is almost the same as the one I just told you.

Do you know what a pearl is? [Ray takes a large sparkling gem out of his pocket]. Sorry, Ray, that's not a pearl. I have a pearl here [taking something much smaller out of my pocket]. As you can see, it is round in shape and has a beautiful milky shine to it.

Let's all say a prayer together: "Dear God, help us to be really, really excited about the things that you give us".

¹My ring, from New Line Cinema, is a reproduction of the Elvin ring worn by the character Galdalf in the *Lord of the Rings* movies.

²The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it (Matthew 13:45-46).