

TheChildrensSermon.com

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 24, 2009

SPECIAL EVENT: Soles4Souls - Barefoot Sunday

Dear Friends,

This week TheChildrensSermon.com is taking a brief detour from the Revised Common Lectionary to encourage your (personal and congregational) participation in Barefoot Sunday, a unique opportunity to support Soles4Souls - an amazing charity that helps to provide new and gently worn shoes to individuals in need around the globe. Sunday, June 7, 2009 marks the national commemoration of Barefoot Sunday, an event that I hope that your congregation - like my own - will be marking. The concept is pretty simple. During worship on June 7th, children and adults will be invited to donate shoes to the charity and leave church barefoot (hence the name).

In my own case, I'll be introducing the concept during the children's sermon on Sunday, May 24 to provide ample time for families to plan their participation. Note that if June 7 is simply too fast a turnaround to ensure your own participation, feel free to choose your own date. This is not only a wonderful cause, but presents a unusually concrete opportunity for young children to display Christ's love in a congregational setting.

To learn more about Soles4Souls, visit <http://www.soles4souls.org>

I've included a set of suggestions for planning your own Barefoot Sunday event at the bottom of this page. Should you choose to participate on an individual or congregational basis - particularly as a result of learning about Barefoot Sunday here at TheChildrensSermon.com, I'd love to hear about both your choice to do so and your local results. I'd love it if you might drop me a line. You can do so by clicking the Contact tab at the top of the page.

Thanks for considering this worthy cause.

Dan

As we gather each week to talk about the Gospel, you've probably noticed that one of the things that Jesus speaks about over and over again is loving and caring for others. Especially those who really need our help the most.

This is one of Jesus' most important lessons for us - and all throughout the Bible there are examples of how he chooses to show his own care. Often these stories talk about Jesus giving food and clothing to people in need.

The feet also play a special role in the Gospel stories. People did a lot of walking in those days and so it was the custom to wash the feet of special guests. One of the very important stories in the Gospel of John talks about how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of his love and respect.

I'm reminding you of these things today because I want to tell you about a special chance that we're going to have to show our love in just the same way. Two weeks from today - June 7, 2009 - is National Barefoot Sunday. On this day you're going to be invited to wear a new - or almost new - pair of shoes to church and, like Jesus, we're going to gather up those shoes (give them away) so that we can send them off to other boys and girls who maybe don't have any shoes of their own.

Did you know how lucky you are to have shoes to wear? There are children all over the world who don't have any at all - and so here's a special chance for us to follow Jesus' example and help others.

And can you guess why they call it Barefoot Sunday? That's right! After we give our shoes away, we'll spend the rest of the service - maybe even the rest of the day - barefoot! Don't you think that'll be a great feeling to know how you're helping? And kind of a fun way to do it, too.

Will you talk to mom and dad about finding a pair of shoes that might be good ones?
Great.

Can we pray?

Dear God,

Just as Jesus showed his love to those in need, prepare us to follow in his example as we look forward to Barefoot Sunday on June 7.

Amen.