



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Worthy Mini Sermon: Annual Offering Sermon 2023

Luke 12: 6-7

Isaiah 49: 15-16

Matthew 6: 26-27

Have the Church play our "Many Ministries Beating With One Heart" video before you walk up into the pulpit to begin.

Introduction

We are indeed many ministries beating with one heart...the heart of Jesus Christ. It is so wonderful to be here with you this morning to share with you on behalf of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. Last year, you and I as North Carolina Baptists, served over 167,000 people through the ministries of BCH. Sixty-one children were adopted through Christian Adoption Services and the Every Child Partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina last year. In 2022, 173 of our residents accepted Christ as their Savior. Thank you for your help! My name is _____.

Let me share with you three simple scriptural truths with you this morning that will help to share just how WORTHY we are in God's eyes. Our ministry is a ministry that teaches all of our residents their value. That is why we exist. We have been "Sharing Hope and Changing Lives" since 1885.

I. (Luke Chapter 12 verses 6-7) You Are Valuable To God

Luke 12: 6-7 reads as follows, "Are not two sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are more valuable than many sparrows."

Clearly, God wants us to know we are VALUABLE. We are more valuable than the birds of the air. Man was created in the image of God because God longed for fellowship with man. We were made with purpose and we are **WORTHY!**

Making sure our kids understand their value is so important. Many feel they have no value and do not know they are Worthy of God's love. We get to share that with them.

Insert Story here:

Take, for example, Joshua, who came to live on one of our campuses. He is a six-foot young African-American teenager. His father deserted him and his mother who lives in the same town as our campus never goes to see him. He has never felt valued. He shared with one of our staff that and I quote, "I am a six-foot Black teenager. Who is going to take me into their home?"

Church, we can never allow kids to think no one wants them or loves them.

This is the brokenness we deal with every day. Because you support BCH, we are sharing the love of God with Joshua and teaching him the Value he has in God's Eyes.

II. (Isaiah 49: 15-16) God Loves Us With An Everlasting Love

In Isaiah chapter 49, Isaiah was sharing with the people that God had not forgotten them. Verses 15-16 read, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even they may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me."

While Israel may have believed God had forgotten them, here God clearly speaks through Isaiah to tell them that He has not forgotten them. As a matter of fact, God tells us our names are engraved in the palms of HIS HANDS!

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina is a ministry that lets children in our cottage/residential care, foster care, and residents in our Camps and Special Needs Homes know that they are Valuable to God. Through our ministry to them, they learn that they have not been forgotten but are WORTHY of God's Love. You help us do that when you partner with us to minister to the LEAST OF THESE.

Where the world sees worthless, God sees treasure. He has placed our names on the palms of His hands. We are grateful to be treasured and blessed to share that with those we serve.

III. (Matthew 6: 25-26) We Are To Live In Faith And Not Fear!

Hear the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:25-26, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Many kids come to us anxious. That's understandable, but one of our purposes is to teach them how WORTHY they are. Our ministries in many ways represent their first introduction to who God is. 80% of those we serve are unchurched.

One component of ALL of our ministries is to teach just how WORTHY we are in God's eyes. God does not want His people to live in fear but we are to live by faith. A process of "Sharing Hope and Changing Lives" is to remind people they are WORTHY! That is what we do at Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

You are VALUABLE!

You are LOVED!

You are CARED FOR!

You are WORTHY! Help us spread the word to our kids.

Would you watch this video with me as we close the service today?

Play the Annual Offering Video. When the video is over turn the service over to the Pastor or other leader who is present.