



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Worthy: 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 to the pulpit to begin. (Address this video)

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 and 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. 61 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 _____ and I am going to do two things today.

First, I will share with you a little information about many of our ministries. It would take too long to share them all in a setting like this, but I will highlight a few of them for you today.

Secondly, I want to share with you from the Word of God just how **WORTHY** we are in God's eyes and why our ministry is so important to the people we serve.

Use the PowerPoint we have provided to share the ministries that were introduced in the video. We have provided a PowerPoint that can be changed for your presentation. A commentary has been added to each slide to help you. You may need to adjust how many ministries you chose to speak about based on the time the church has given you to speak and your knowledge about these ministries. Please remember this is a guide to help you but it is only a guide. Personalize it to your liking.

Would you open your Bible or electronic device with me to Luke Chapter 12, verses 6 and 7? I hope you will follow along with me as I read God's Word this morning.

I. Luke 12: 6-7, **You Are Valuable to God!**

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

In Luke Chapter 12, Jesus is warning about persecution. As he was making his way towards Jerusalem large crowds were gathering and swarming around him. He began speaking to his Disciples directly and warned them about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. In that warning, he

used an example of leaven. A little leaven makes a big difference when added to the mix and Jesus used that example to share that what was done in darkness would come to light.

In verses 4-5, Jesus warned that they would be persecuted, but he told them not to fear any persecution from those who can take their life but to fear the one who has the power to cast judgment on their soul. Jesus knew the persecution and death that many of the Disciples would face.

Then in verses 6-7, Jesus declares their great value. We may face hypocrisy and we may have to deal with persecution in this life but God sees our great value. We all face persecution of some kind as we try to live out our faith. I want you to consider the type of persecution and trials our residents go through....Abandonment, Uncertainty, Anger, and a lack of Self-Worth. Our ministries help to restore the worth that we know we have in Christ.

-We are more valuable than the birds of the air.

-Man was created in the image of God because he longed for fellowship with man. We were made with purpose, and we are **WORTHY!**

At Baptist Children's Homes, **ALL** of our ministries demonstrate just how worthy those we serve are in God's eyes. Our ministries give new hope and extra opportunities for our residents to discover their Worthiness! Let me give you an example.

Insert a story here. Choose one of the stories that have been provided or share your own story. Remember stories get to the heart so share at least one.

II. Isaiah 49: 15-16, God Loves Us With An Everlasting Love!

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 that God had forgotten them, here God clearly speaks through Isaiah to tell them that he has not forgotten them. **WE 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 share the love of God with them as you partner with us to minister to the least of these.

When the world sees us as worthless, God sees us as 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!

In Matthew Chapter six Jesus warns not to do good works in public to be seen, not to pray to be heard and seen as the hypocrites do in the synagogues. Jesus teaches us how to pray by giving us an example of how we should pray in the Lord's Prayer. He speaks of Fasting and that we should not try to lay up riches on Earth but instead we should build the kingdom of God.

Finally, in verses 25-26, Jesus teaches us that we are not to be anxious. The righteous will live by Faith and not Fear.

Hear the words of Jesus, "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 into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value to than they?"

Many of our 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 come to us as unchurched.

One component of ALL of our ministries is to teach just how Worthy we are in God's sight. God does not want his people to live in fear but to live by faith. A part of the process of "Sharing Hope and Changing Lives" is to remind people that 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 this morning?

Play the Annual Offering Video and then turn the service over to the Pastor or designated leader to close it out.