



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

June 14, 2009

Pentecost 2

Children's sermon

How many of you have a nickname?

What is a nickname?

Nicknames- given out of love or because of some characteristic.

This past week we celebrated the feast of St Barnabas. His real name was Joseph but he was nicknamed Barnabas which means son of encouragement. He was just that kind of guy.

Nicknames are usually names given out of affection.

But there are some other names we call people that are used because we have no affection for them at all.

Throughout history all people have had names for those they do not like.

I am sure there are people here who remember words that were used for people who were a different color.

People from different countries.

People who were different from them and they did not like.

Even Jesus used one of these names. The name 'birds of the air' was a derogatory term used by Jews for gentiles. Gentiles were all the people who were not Jews. Birds of the air was a term used because the Jews

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believed they had no spiritual home and no part in gods kingdom. Now when Jesus used he was not being mean about them. No what he said is that his kingdom is like a mustard seed that when it is planted will grow to be the biggest tree. So big that even the birds of the air can make their nests in the shade.

Even those people who we do not like, who maybe we call names, even those people are welcome in the kingdom of god.

Amen

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