

Children's Sermon Preached Christmas 2/ Epiphany 2010
The Rev. Stephanie Chase Wilson

Who has read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas?"

What is the story about?

Do you know why the Grinch hated Christmas so much? Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small!

Why didn't the Grinch's plan work? Because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.

The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but this morning I want to tell you a true story of another "Grinch" who tried to steal Christmas. In fact, he tried to steal the very first Christmas. This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod.

After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came The truth is, Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill him. Why? Perhaps his heart was too small! Herod was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and perhaps even take over his kingdom.

Well, Herod's plan to kill Jesus didn't work. After the wise men found Jesus and gave him gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

And so, we see that since the very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. But like the Whos -it will never work -- unless your heart is too small.

What do you think a big heart would look like? How would we behave?

As Christians, we are here to share big hearts with the world, just as Jesus would do. Make sure that our hearts are big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone we meet -- not just at Christmas -- but all year long.

Amen.

Modified from: http://www.sermons4kids.com/herod_the_grinch.htm

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