

SERMON TITLE:

"A Motherless Child"

TEXT(s):

Psalms 27:10

Psalms 68:5

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH!!!

We want to THANK:
...past Foster Parents;

...current Foster / Resource Parents;

We want to RECRUIT:
...new Foster / Resource Parents;

DEFINITION OF FOSTER CARE:

"24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility, whether or not the placement is licensed or payments are made."

"Out-of-Home" Placement

"Under Supervision"

"In the System"

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE STATISTICS:

- 523,000 children and youth in foster care!
- Average length of stay is 32 months!
- 20,000 of these children will “age out” this year!

NEW JERSEY STATISTICS:

- 50,000 + children are involved with DYFS system;
- 10,500+ are in “out-of-home” placement;
- 1,900 kids awaiting adoption;

STATISTICS ON KIDS “AGING OUT”

- Only 54% earn a high school diploma;
 - Only 10% go on to college;
 - Only 2% obtain BA/BS or higher;
- 84% become parents prior to marriage;
 - 30% have no health insurance;
 - 25% will at one time be homeless;
 - 37% become incarcerated;
- 30% receive some type of public assistance;
- Over 40% will become involved with drugs or are alcoholics;
- 51% will experience unemployment due to lack of skills;

WHAT DO WE WANT FOR OUR CHILDREN...

Reunification with Biological Parents

Permanency - Long Term Placement with Kinship Families or "Forever Families"

Adoption into a "Forever Family"

During the month of May hundreds of community events are being planned across the country to help retain, recruit and support critically needed foster parents as well as provide support and advocacy for foster youth and assist children aging out of the system.

FOUR MESSAGES:

1. Birth Parents: don't ever stop trying to reunite with your children!

2. Foster Parents: thank you for opening your home!

3. Professional CW/CP Workers: do not ever underestimate the impact on one child!

4. Foster Children: it is not where you start, it's where you finish!

"A Motherless Child"

Author:

J. W. Johnson,

J. R. Johnson

1926

MUSICAL GENRES OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT:

Anthems....

Hymns....

Spirituals...

Traditional Gospel...

Contemporary Gospel...

Praise & Worship...

CONTEXTUAL POINT(S):

Singers / Composers of African descent
that Popularized Black Musical Genres:

Fisk Jubilee Singers

Hampton Singers

Harry Thacker Burleigh,

Roland Hayes

Marian Anderson

Hall Johnson

Florence Price

Mahalia Jackson

Paul Robeson

CONTEXTUAL POINT(S):

OTHER FAMOUS SPIRITUALS:

“Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”

“No More Auction Block”

“Didn’t My Lord Deliver”

“Scandalize My Name”

“Go Down Moses”

“Jacob’s Ladder”

“Ol’ Man River”

“Balm in Gilead”

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

“Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho”

NOTABLE POINTS ABOUT THE SPIRITUALS

Call & Response Mechanism;

**Emphasis on Time -
Harsh Reality of the Present
Hope of the Future;**

**Coping Mechanism -
Mental Health Component;**

**Communication Mechanism -
Encoded Messaging;**

Sometime I feel Like a motherless child (x3)
A long...long way...from home
And sometimes I feel Like I'm almost gone (x3)
Like I'm all alone A long...a looong wayee from home
Who's got a shoulder when I need to cry
I feel restless and I don't know why
Cry for help, but still feel alone
Like a motherless child along way from home
Lord I'm lost I can't find my way
I'm dealing with the struggles in my day to day
My soul is weak and I wanna be strong
I try to run away but I've been running to long (x2)
Who's got a shoulder when I need to cry
I feel restless and I don't know why
Cry for help, but I still feel alone
Like a motherless child along way from home
Lord I'm lost I can't find my way
I'm dealing with the struggles in my day to day
My soul is weak and I wanna be strong
I try to run away but I've been running to long
I've been running to long... I've been running to long Like a
motherless child (x4)
So lost and so long Like a motherless child

Sometimes I feel Like a motherless child

Sometimes I feel Like a motherless child

A Long Way From Home

True Believer

A Long Way From Home

Sometimes I feel Like a motherless child (x3)

Sometimes I wish I could fly, Like a bird up in the sky (x2) Little closer to
home

Motherless children Have a real hard time (x2)

Motherless children Have a such a real hard time

So long so long so long

Sometimes I feel Like a motherless child (x2)

So far away

Sometimes I feel Like freedom is near (x2)

But we're so far away

Sometimes I feel like it's close at hand

Sometimes I feel like the freedom is near

But we're so far from home

Sometimes, Sometimes, Sometimes

So far, so far, so far, So far Mama from you, so far

CONTEXTUAL POINTS

SCRIPTURAL EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN

“Fatherless”

“Motherless”

“Orphan”

CONTEXTUAL POINTS

Deuteronomy 24:17, 21

"You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge... When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow...."

James 1:27

"Pure and undefiled religion before GOD and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

CONTEXTUAL POINTS

Psalms 127:3

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is HIS reward."

Matthew 18:3-5

*"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives **one little child** like this in My name receives me."*

Matthew 19:13-15

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of GOD."

Psalms 27:10

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me."

Psalms 68:5

"A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is GOD in His holy habitation. GOD sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity;"

SERMONIC POINT #1:

**Thank GOD for the “parents” or
“family” in our lives!**

...related by blood / ancestry;

...related by spirit;

SERMONIC POINT #2:

What does the word "forsake"
mean in Psalm 27:10?

...it connotes "departure;"

...temporary or permanent absence;

SERMONIC POINT #2 (cont):

There could be a plethora of different feelings:

Challenging Feelings:

...guilt, shame, pain, anger,
resentment,

Positive Feelings:

...peace, joy, etc...;

SERMONIC POINT #2 (cont):

Whatever the feeling, it is the
ABSENCE of parent that is to be
highlighted!

SERMONIC POINT 3:

**During Periods of Absence,
note what GOD does/will do...**

...Psalm 27:10

"...GOD will take care of me!"

Psalm 68:5

***"...a father to the fatherless...sets the
solitary in families;"***

NEGRO SPIRITUAL

*"Sometimes I feel like a
Motherless Child!"*

Sometimes...I DO!!!

At other times... I DO NOT!!!

CONCLUSION:

Praise GOD for the family we do
have!

Appreciate them before they leave
us!

Know that GOD is always there!