

Sermon Notes

Say and Seal by Susan Warner - In the novel, as a little boy named Johnny Fax is dying, his Sunday school teacher, Mr. Linden, comforts the small boy by slowly reciting a poem written by Susan's sister, Anna Bartlett Warner.

"Jesus Loves Me" by Anna Bartlett Warner, 1860

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
2. Jesus loves me, loves me still, though I'm very weak and ill.
From his shining throne on high, comes to watch me where I lie.
3. Jesus loves me. He will stay, close beside me all the way.
Then his little child will take, up to heaven for his dear sake.

Children of God - I John 3:1-2 - ¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Music and Refrain by William Batchelder Bradbury, 1862

Jesus loves me, He who died Heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

Jesus Loves Me - I John 4:7-12 - ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Verses 2 and 3 in our hymnal are by David Rutherford McGuire.

2. Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
3. Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Let Them Come to Me - Mark 10:13-16 - ¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Karl Barth - "The greatest theological insight that I have ever had is this: Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!"

China - "Jesus Loves Me" was titled "China" in some 19th century hymnals because it was the favorite hymn of China. The Chinese church endured oppression when Mao Tse Sung tried to crush the church. In the early 1970s, a cryptic note was sent to Christians outside the country that said, "The this I know people are well."

Things I would like to remember from today's sermon:

