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Girl Scout Sunday – March 7, 2010

Sermon Texts: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15
Luke 13: 1-9
I Corinthians 10: 1-12

Sermon Title: “Given Another Chance”

Sermon Topic: Evangelism

Sermon Purpose: To get the people to realize they have a mission on this earth. They must be fruitful, having once been spared, or this judgment will be final.

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Sermon Prayer: Holy God, empower us by Your will and lead us by Your Spirit that the Words of my lips heart and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, and that the ministry inspired by the study of Your written and living Word be strengthened by Your ever-present grace. In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.

When Jesus told this parable, He was telling those who were gathered around Him to “get with the program.” He was **warning** them that they had been set in the midst of **other** believers who had repented their sins and were, now, doing God’s will. He was telling them that God had pronounced a **judgment** on **them**, but that **He** was going to intercede for **them**, just as the vinedresser had interceded for the fig tree.

God was ready to cut them down; because He had showered them with blessings, shed His warm love upon them, fed them with miracles, and had strengthened them with **hope** and with **promise**; yet, they had **refused** to fulfill their duty and live the life God wanted for them. They had not spread forth their roots and blossomed into true, practicing believers. They still cringed in the shadows, as a follower of Baal would walk by. They were stunted by doubts – rather than putting everything in God’s hands, and being emboldened by their faith. They were **leaching** resources others might use in order to grow.

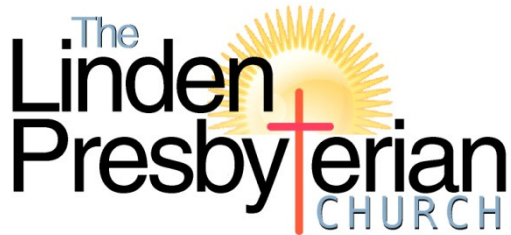
However, Jesus was there to say, “Let them live a little longer, Father. I’ll teach them, and give them hope, and show them your love. **Then**, if nothing happens, you can destroy them.”

He came! He disturbed our comfortable, easy living. He shook our lazy roots by teaching us that we can’t hold fast to our wayward habits and **still expect** to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus fed us on the Bread of Life; the will of God, and love. He even died for us, so that our sin-debt might be paid in full and we could start over, again, with a clean slate.

Now, what do **we** have to do? The Scripture says, “if we bear fruit, we live.” Now, that doesn’t simply mean that having children can get you into heaven. A dog, a cat, a pig, or even a cow can bear offspring; but there is no way they are going to receive the salvation of Christ. Neither does it mean that if you have **not** been blessed with children that you are being **barred** from paradise. Mary





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Magdalene never bore a child. Paul was a bachelor. But no one can deny their faithfulness to Jesus and to the will of God.

Whatever our circumstances, we must teach others about Jesus, about the love of God, and about the power of the Holy Spirit; about the miracles Christ performed and about the blessings we've received. Only **then** do we bear fruit.

Now, I know it's difficult to witness and to bear fruit. Not everyone wants to hear about what we believe. Many people are content to be in their own little world with no real faith – just wandering through life. That means our witness is all the more **important**. Infants do not follow the ways of sin as readily as adults. Young people are more willing to question and are not as set in their ways as older adults. Just because someone has reached the age of sixty or seventy does not mean we can take it for granted that they know the Lord.

Our Lord and Savior have given us another chance. What are we going to do with it?

How much longer are we going to sit on our hands and do nothing to earn our keep? How much longer are we going to stand on the street corner of life complaining about all the **bad** things that have happened and never mention the **good** that God has given? How long do we have before something comes along and removes us from this physical world? How long before we are judged worthless according to the standards set for us thousands of years ago? We've been given a job to do! What are we going to be worth, when that final call is given? It's up to us, **now**.

Yes, I can hear you all, as I finish. You're saying, "But we're saved by **faith**, not by **works**."

Yes, this is **true!** Our **first** pardon came by the grace of God. And, at that time, our faith was given birth.

But our faith demands action or it cannot grow. We must share the good news, as Jesus commanded from the mountaintop. If our faith doesn't grow, it weakens and dies. If it dies, there is nothing left to guarantee our worth, at the final call.

Let us pray:

God, you allowed your only Son to take upon himself our flesh and to die for our sins. We praise the mercy of your heart. We confess our inadequacies, our inability to follow all that you demand. We thank you for the time we have been given and for the blessings bestowed upon us that we might live as loved children of God, no matter how grievous our offenses. We thank you, Heavenly Father, for our redemption through that same Christ Who offered us a second chance. Now, Eternal One, we pray for the strength to carry out the tasks assigned to us; that our witness might be fruitful in your mighty, omniscient sight and in remembrance of the grace received through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

