

# YOUTH SUNDAY WITNESS

by

Daley Beard

9:45 a.m. February 28, 2010

*(Second Sunday of Lent)*



## ST. PAUL'S

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Lectionary Texts:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

## Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”*

*<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”*

*<sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”*

*<sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”*

*<sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.”*

*Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

*<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”*

*<sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”*

*<sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”*

*<sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

*<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.*

*<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,*

## Philippians 3:17-4:1

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

<sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Good morning, my name is Daley Beard.

I'm 13 and a seventh grader at Pin Oak and I'm excited to be a part of this service.

While studying the scriptures for this week's service, I discovered a theme for each passage shared this morning.

Genesis is about trust....Abraham's trust in God....and God's trust in Abraham.

Philippians is about encouragement....Paul gives quite a pep talk to his church. And Luke finishes up with accountability.

Jesus offers salvation, and also makes it clear that it's our responsibility to accept it.

Let's start out with trust.

God and Abraham have a deeply trusting relationship with each other....Abraham's trust in God comes from his unquestioned faith in Him....God has trust in Abraham because he gets the job done....he says yes...and follows through.

I had a recent experience with this idea of trust.

This past Tuesday afternoon, I'm in the backseat...on my way home from school...listening to Tiffin on the phone.

"Um, Daley? The original speaker for this Sunday's kid service suddenly can't make it. Can you do the witness?"

My step-mom Julie says that after a few ums and okays, my response was, "Uh, I'm really not sure what that means...but...sure...I'll do it"

Tiffin/My Church/My Family had the trust in me that I would do the job.

Of course, my habit of talking A LOT may have had a little to do with it.

I had the faith in Tiffin/My Church/My Family to know that I would be given the tools and support to succeed.

The theme from Philippians involves encouragement.

Paul's letter to the Philippians...his team...is all about encouragement.

"Embrace my example"....."choose to be with those who live according to the pattern".... And, oh, by the way....Keep plugging away, in spite of the mean people and the really big bumps in the road.

When one of us kids in the house has a "bump in the road," Julie has these Pep Talk Memo things that she fills out for us. One of these right here.....I imagine Paul filling one out.....

“Doomed” might sound a little rough, but the passage from Luke reminds us about our accountability. Jesus leaves little doubt that...a), he is willing to offer us salvation, but...b), we will be held accountable for our choices.

Talk is cheap,... as they say.....

When our family is about to have dinner or leave the house, my little brother Sam is always somewhere else. His answer to our “Sam, let’s go!” is immediately..”I’m coming!” Most of the time he has no intention of moving a muscle.....but..it sounds good and buys him some time, until we yell again....and again.

When one of us is confronted by tough homework, or we’re being reminded that we’re “not getting the job done,”we often rely on the “but I’m really trying!” response.

But do we really believe that?

I have my struggles with school.....I can make good grades.....but I DO have my ups and downs. SO, when I’m not doing so great, I casually remind myself to just do better on the next test....the next progress report.....the next report card.

But what happens if one day..out of the blue...this report card is my last?

No “we’ll get’em next time.”

No “do-overs.”

Will my grades be good enough?

At the top of the church bulletin today, part of it reads.. “the Lenten season is a time for confronting our human weaknesses in an honest attempt to redirect our lives in God’s way.”That will require three things.....

Trust...Genuinely trust in the Lord and your loved ones so much that you “question less often, and say yes more often.....

Encouragement...follow your faith along with others headed in the same direction...And when you get off track?....Give yourself an honest pep talk....and have a little ice cream...

And finally, accountability.... When you say you're on your way...you'd better be moving.....Don't confuse "really trying" with "not working hard enough".....

And do your best to be prepared for that final report card....when we see Him again and say,.....Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.