



Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

Welcome to our Worship Service!

March 25, 2018

Devotional:----- Henry Nissley

Message:----- Ralph Yoder

Offering:----- Alms

SS Lesson for next week:

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

Adult and Youth Verse for next week:

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12

CHILDREN'S CORNER

"What if I don't make the team, Dad?" Felix asked as they hiked a rugged trail. He had spent most of their backpacking trip finding things to worry about.

"Felix, I bet by now you've listed a dozen things that worry you," Dad said. "I could understand your concerns if we were fending off mountain lions or something, but the most dangerous animal we've seen was the timid gray squirrel that scurried across our path a few minutes ago."

Felix wasn't listening. He was too busy worrying. "And what if Maggie is still mad at me?" he continued. "I said I was sorry a thousand times, but she hardly talks to me anymore."

Dad frowned and picked up a large stone from the side of the trail. As they walked, he reached over, unzipped Felix's backpack, and slipped the rock inside. Felix didn't even notice.

"What if I don't figure out the new stuff we're doing in my math class? It's so hard!" Felix sighed. "I'll fail, and you and Mom will ground me for a month!" With each new worry Felix brought up, Dad managed to sneak a rock into his backpack.

"I'm getting kind of tired," Felix said after a while. "What if I get too tired to finish the hike? Maybe we should turn back." Dad added another rock to the backpack. This time Felix noticed.

"What are you doing?" he asked. He stopped, took off his backpack, and opened it. "Dad!" he said with a groan. "My pack is

heavy enough without these rocks! Why are you making it heavier?"

Dad shrugged. "It's not much different from what you're doing yourself, is it?"

"I'm not picking up rocks!" Felix said.

"No, but worrying about every little thing is kind of like carrying a load of heavy rocks. It just makes you tired and everybody around you miserable." Dad took off his backpack. "Let's take a break. We'll dump the rocks from your backpack, and I think it would also be a good time to pray and give your burdens to Jesus. Don't you agree?" Felix sighed and nodded.

"Good," said Dad. "When you remember what He's done for you and trust Him to take care of you, you'll be able to live life without being weighed down by worries."

Mike Dize

HOW ABOUT YOU? Do you spend a lot of time worrying? Has it ever helped you? Instead of fretting about things you have no control over, go to Jesus with your worries. He's in control of everything, and He always does what is good. Trust Him to handle the problems you face and give you wisdom. Then you can live without the burden of worry weighing you down.

TODAY'S KEY VERSE: 1 Peter 5:7

[Cast] all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (NKJV)

Announcements:

- A fellowship meal is planned at the schoolhouse after the service.
- This Evening: Free Evening
- Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting at 7:00
- School devotions this week by: Michael Yoder
- No school on Friday for Good Friday.
- Out of state correspondence this week by Kathy Yoder

God's Purpose in Things

One day a woodcutter took his grandson into the forest for his first experience in selecting and cutting oak trees. These they would later sell to the boat builders. As they walked along, the woodcutter explained that the purpose of each tree is contained in its natural shape: some are straight for planks, some have the proper curves for the ribs of a boat, and some are tall for masts. The woodcutter told his grandson that by paying attention to the details of each tree, and with experience in recognizing these characteristics, someday he too might become the woodcutter of the forest.

A little way into the forest, the grandson saw an old oak tree that had never been cut. The boy asked his grandfather if he could cut it down because it was useless for boat building – there were no straight limbs, the trunk was, short and gnarled, and the curves were going the wrong way. "We could cut it down for firewood," the grandson said. "At least then it will be of some use to us." The woodcutter replied that for now they should be about their work cutting the proper trees for the boat builders; maybe later they could return to the old oak tree.

After a few hours of cutting the huge trees, the grandson grew tired and asked if they could stop for a rest in some cool shade. The

woodcutter took his grandson over to the old oak tree, where they rested against its trunk in the cool shade beneath its twisted limbs. After they had rested a while, the woodcutter explained to his grandson the necessity of attentive awareness and recognition of everything in the forest and in the world. Some things are readily apparent, like the tall, straight trees; other things are less apparent, requiring closer attention, like recognition of the proper curves in the limbs. And some things might initially appear to have no purpose at all, like the gnarled old oak tree. The woodcutter stated, "You must learn to pay careful attention every day so you can recognize and discover the purpose God has for everything in creation. For it is this old oak tree, which you so quickly deemed useless except for firewood, that now allows us to rest against its trunk amidst the coolness of its shade.

"Remember, grandson, not everything is as it first appears. Be patient, pay attention, recognize, and discover."

— from the book, THE GIVING TREE
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"A natural example of this is the two seas in the Holy Land. The Sea of Galilee freely receives and gives out water. It has an abundance of life, nurturing many different kinds of fish and plant life. The water of the Sea of Galilee is carried by way of the Jordan River to the Dead Sea. But the Dead Sea only takes water in and does not give it out. There are no living plants or fish in it. The living waters from the Sea of Galilee become dead when mixed with the hoarded waters of the Dead Sea. Life cannot be sustained if held on to: It must be given freely."

— John Bevere, The Bait of Satan: Living Free from the Deadly Trap of Offense