

Good Morning -

As I read the lessons for today, I was reminded of the Movie/Book The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

I don't know how many of you have had the pleasure of either reading the book or watching the movie but if you know me, I'm quite the movie buff.

I was reminded of the characters of the story: The Lion - Aslan; The Children - Lucy, Susan, Peter and Edmund Pevensie; The Witch /The White Queen; and Mr. Tumnus.

Lucy - the youngest of the children tried to tell her siblings that there was another place called Narnia that you could go through the wardrobe to get to. Eventually they believe her but are still wary of what Lucy says will help Narnia. This made me think of Moses and how he said "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt" He said "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you. Just as Lucy is the one who encourages her siblings to cross Narnia to find Aslan.

Along the way they encounter Mr. Tumnus, who, because of his weakness to believe in Aslan and Narnia, is "frozen" by the White Queen/Witch. Throughout the movie you see those who have displeased the "witch" and are turned. There is one however that begins to please the "queen" by what he can bring her if he wants. That made me think of our second lesson today from 1 Corinthians that said "For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did." Just as Edmund was tempted and led away from his siblings by the "witch". As the story progresses you see Edmund realizes that the "witch" was not the answer to his wishes. As he was put into her dungeon he began to realize that maybe his sister Lucy was who he should have listened to. Just like Edmund we all sometimes listen to our own type of "witch" God is faithful and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Edmond finds out that Aslan, the Lion, with grace accepts him back into the fold. Edmond realizes that with faith you are given another chance. The Narnians who were with Aslan did not want to have Edmond back into the "fold". He found his siblings were happy to see their brother but did not completely understand how he could be swayed by the "witch".

In the reading from Luke this morning, Jesus talks about the Galileans who suffered - asked if they were worse sinners than the other Galileans? He stated No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. He goes on to talk about other examples of others who were offenders. As the book shows that Edmund was ready to repent to Aslan who forgave him and yet still warned him of making errors/bad decisions in the future.

The parable that Jesus shares about the fig tree. The owner of the vineyard is ready to give up on the fig tree and to have it cut down. The gardener convinces him to give it another year to bear fruit.

We all have had those moments of turning away from the Lord. I know there are times when on a Sunday I would see a cool event that is taking place and I'd like to go to the event early and then I'd remember the "Sabbath". Spending time with our Lord is important. It is like the parable of the fig tree. He is willing to give us that "next chance/year". We are reminded that as Moses, the Galileans, and the Owner of the Vineyard. It takes patience and trust. When we are suffering and wonder why, not unlike those today who are suffering in war torn countries. We have to allow God to guide us along our journey in life.

Again, as it stated in 1 Corinthians: God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Lord is always with us and we will be tested many times in our lives, I know I have. We just have to have faith in our Lord that we will listen to his guidance along the way.

Lord, thank you for being my guide. You are my strength and my redeemer.

Amen.