

# YOUTH SUNDAY WITNESS

Something to Say

by

Mary Tindall

9:45 a.m. February 28, 2010

*(Second Sunday of Lent)*



## ST. PAUL'S

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5501 Main Street

Houston, Texas 77004-6917

713-528-0527

[www.stpaulshouston.org](http://www.stpaulshouston.org)

## 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,

Hi. My name is Mary Tindall, and I am 11 years old and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Lanier Middle School. I plan on being confirmed at the end of the school year. I have come to this church all of my life, and I love it so much. I thought a great way to become a better Christian was to be more active in the church, so I offered to do this.

Last week when I read the scriptures, I found a common theme: God will always be with you, so never give up hope. I can connect to this statement with two stories.

My first story takes place at Sequoia National Park in California. Pause the movie. Before I continue, I should let you know that I have a big phobia of bees and wasps. And by the way, Sequoia has a lot of them. Okay, continue. *So, my family and I were taking a hike through the forest of sequoia trees, and there were bugs everywhere, and I mean everywhere! It was at the point to where I was in tears, that is how bad it was. It just happened to be that my crying made my twin brother, Mark, get scared and he burst into tears. (Did I mention that we were nine at the time?) Anyway, my parents were telling us not to worry, trying to calm us down before we ran into some other tourists. I could almost see the light bulb appear above my mom’s head. “Let’s pray” she suggested, and she hugged me and Mark on either side of her and started praying, “Dear Lord, please protect us all with your powers and make us feel better and not scared and show us that you are here watching over us. Amen.” It wasn’t the most complex prayer, but it worked for me. All of the sudden I felt like I was being watched. Isn’t that funny? Well, with this renewed hope, we trudged on. As we turned the next corner, my mom, Mark, and I all gasped in sync. There, about ten feet away, were two grazing deer. It was beautiful. And it calmed and reassured me. “See?” My mom said, “God is watching over us.”*

That story connects to part of a verse from the first lesson, Genesis, 15:1. After these things the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield...” Those deer said to us the same thing. “Do not be afraid, I am your shield.”

My second story takes place at Lost Pines State Park near Austin, Texas. This one doesn’t include any bugs. *My family was on a hike, just after eating lunch. We were about 1 ½ miles away from the car. My dad was way up ahead, about half a mile, and up on*

*top of this really big hill. The trail was gravel. I was enjoying the scenery when I tripped and fell. I looked down, and my entire knee was bloody. I screamed in horror. Then, I thought I was being sucked into a hole. I thought the ground collapsed because it left my bottom really quick. I realized that I wasn't falling, but being picked up. By my big brother, Matthew. He just unexpectedly picked me off the ground and settled me on his back. He turned around and headed toward the car. Trying to lighten things up, I said, "Wow, so this is what it is like to be tall!" A smile crept upon my face and I rested my head on Matthew's shoulder.*

On that day, I found out that God could reach down and touch people's hearts, making them do unexpected things. God was with me that day, too; He just showed himself through another human being.

God really is with you wherever you go, no matter what.