



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 5, 2017

P.O. Box 416
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Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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BY THE ROOT

Growing season for most things in gardens and flower beds is winding down. That means less weed pulling! This preacher remembers a weed in Georgia that we nicknamed “Monster Weed” because it grew very quickly, developed thorns and had a root system that made it nearly impossible to pull up by the stalk. Of how much sorer back would one be who attempted to pull up a mature tree by its roots?

Luke records the following lesson on faith that Jesus taught His disciples: *“And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you” (Luke 17:6).* Most scholars believe that what the Greeks called a “sycamine tree” is actually the black mulberry, very common in that part of the world. It seems significant that Luke is the only one in the New Testament to use this word because Luke was a physician (**Colossians 4:14**), and the mulberry had medicinal uses.

Now, what right-thinking man is going to try to pull up a tree by its roots using only his bare hands? This is difficult using modern heavy equipment. Yet the power which the apostles later possessed, even in their words, was equivalent to that kind of physical strength. That is why Mark tells us it was *“...the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following” (Mark 16:20).* What we possess in our copies of the “miracle-confirmed” word of God is a tribute to the faith of the apostles and prophets of the First Century. For us and those around us, it is *“...the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...” (Romans 1:16).* What can our faith do with this sharp “two-edged sword” (**Hebrews 4:12**)?

J. Brooks Boyd

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

The story is told of a young man who wished to marry the farmer's beautiful daughter. He went to the farmer to ask his permission. The farmer looked him over and responded, "Son, go stand out in that field and I'm going to release three bulls, one at a time. If you can catch the tail of any one of the three bulls, you can marry my daughter."

The young man stood in the pasture awaiting the first bull. The barn door opened and out ran the biggest, meanest-looking bull he had ever seen. He decided that one if the next bulls had to be a better choice than this one, so he ran over to the side and let the bull pass through the pasture out the back gate.

The barn door opened again. Unbelievable. He had never seen anything so big and fierce in his life. It stood pawing the ground and grunting as it eyes him. Whatever the next bull was like, it had to be a better choice than this one. He ran to the fence and let the bull pass through the pasture, out the back gate.

The door opened a third time. A smile came across his face. This was the weakest, scrawniest little bull he had ever seen. This one was his bull. As the bull came running by, he positioned himself just right and jumped at just the exact moment. He grabbed, but the bull had no tail!

Life is full of opportunities. Some will be easy to take advantage of, some will be difficult. But once we let them pass (often in hopes of something better), those opportunities may never again be available.

The same thing is also true of opportunities to serve Christ. God often opens doors-opportunities to speak up for Him, opportunities to minister to someone who is hurting or in need, opportunities to have an influence on the world around us. If we allow them to pass by, we may miss out on them altogether.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

Alan Smith