

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

"Encourage One Another"

24th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Paul Lutheran Church - Caro, MI
11-15-2020

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (NIV)
(Cross-reference – 2 Corinthians 12:19, Ephesians 4:29, Jude 1:20)

Illustration "discourage" (Show devil selling his tools)



The devil, according to an old story, once advertised his tools for sale. On the sale date, the devices were placed for public inspection, each marked with a price. It was a treacherous lot of implements hatred, envy, jealousy, deceit, lying, pride, etc.
(Show devil discouragement tool)



Laid apart from the rest was a harmless-looking tool, well worn and rusted, yet it was priced very high. One curious customer asked, "What is this tool?" "That is discouragement," replied the devil. "Why have you priced it so high?" "Because it is more useful to me than others. I can pry open and get inside a person's heart with that when I cannot get near them with my other tools. Once I get inside, I can make them do what I choose. It is badly worn because I use it on almost everyone." Source:
<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/encourage-one-another-dan-raymond-sermon-on-second-chances-199001?ref=SermonSerps>
(Show discouragement)

I. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, the illustration show that it is a way for discouragement in people heart that



will cause them to not able to do other things in life. It will pierce the encouragement so hard that the motivation cannot go to another person—all walks of life, whether you are a Christian, a leader, or a friend. When you have been discouraged, you will lose heart, and when you fall to the lowest point in life, you may not be able to overcome the discouragement of life. (Show 1 Thessalonians 5:11)



The Apostle Paul wrote his epistle letter to encourage the believer in Thessalonians said, "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11). The Thessalonians were persecuted for their faith. Paul encourages them to live life for God's glory and not forget about the work o the Lord Jesus Christ and to encourage those who have the faith not to lose hope for those who had already died before Christ return. (Show Hebrews 3:13)



Paul wants the believer to encourage one another just as he had encouraged them through the Gospel. The way to encourage one another is to "build each other up." The believer helps build each other up until the Lord returns. Just as the Apostle Paul encourages the Thessalonians, we encourage one another and build each other up. The author of the Hebrews writes, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13). (Show South Windsor Police vehicle)

What If you have someone to encourage you, would you be happy?



In June of 1993, the Police in South Windsor, Connecticut Police pulled over a motorist in larger numbers than usual, not because scofflaws had overrun the city. One person stopped by a patrolman was Lori Carlson, according to the Reuters news service. As the policeman approached her car, she wondered what she had done wrong. To her amazement of the officer handed her a ticket that said, "Your driving was GREAT! – and we appreciate it." (Show \$2.00 Bill)



On Wednesday, June 9, the Hartford suburb authorities began a new program to save drivers a two-dollar reward for obeying the speed limit, wearing safety belts, having children in protective seats, and using turn signals. "You are always nervous when you see the police lights come on," said Carl Lomas, another resident of South Windsor pulled over for good driving." It takes a second or two to adjust to the officer, saying, 'Hey, thanks a lot for obeying the law.' It's about the last thing you would expect." The Police of South Windsor had a good idea. The first thing others should expect from us is encouragement.

Our friends, family, and fellow workers will respond best if we not only correct them when they do wrong but thank them for doing right. (75 Encouraging Illustration - Encouragement #166, page 137) Source: https://books.google.com/books?id=WGQIqpsLUcG&pg=PA137&lpg=PA137&dq=reuters+write+windsor+police+in+connecticut+give+a+ticket+you+are+driving+was+great+in+1993&source=bl&ots=JMcH6zGL2q&sig=Ia69Aj-ir2qc0EtU0YVc-81-RX0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjugOrC_IPfAhWwtVkKHfv_CEUQ6AEwCnoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=reuters%20write%20windsor%20police%20in%20connecticut%20give%20a%20ticket%20you%20are%20driving%20was%20great%20in%201993&f=false (Show 2017 MN registration tag)



I have a sister-in-law pulled over by a Hmong Police Officer in Minnesota because her registration tag has already expired since 2017. She was please because she had never met a Hmong Police Officer in a patrol car before, and she apologized for her expired registration tag. She complimented the Hmong Officer for serving the community "To Protect and Serve." The officer gave her a warning and asked her to get the registration expired sticker corrected ASAP. She was encouraged to not getting a ticket for her expired registration tag, and she is proud that we have a Hmong Police Officer serving the community. (Show Derek Redmonds – Olympic Race 1992)

II. ESPN calls it one of the 100 most significant moments in sports history. I call it the perfect picture of encouragement. It was Derek Redmond's dream to win an Olympic medal in the 400-meter race. In the semifinals of the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and the people fill the stadium with 65,000 fans, including Derek's father, Jim Redmond. During the race, Derek broke out to an early lead and pulled away. One hundred seventy-five meters from the finish line, the race looked to be all his.



Suddenly, Derek hears a pop. It's his right hamstring. Derek pulls up as if someone shot him. After hopping on one leg a few steps, he collapsed to the ground. At the top of the stadium, Derek's dad, Jim, feels like someone sucker-punched him in the gut. Seeing his son writhing on the ground, Jim scrambles down the stands as fast as he could. Jim had no credentials to be on the field, but pushing by people as fast as he could, he yelled, "That's my son out there, and I'm going to help him."

(Show Derek Redmonds – Olympic Race 1992 – The courage to finish the race)



Meanwhile, in incredible pain and tears, Derek realized his lost Olympic dreams, but he was determined to finish the race. In great anguish, he pulled himself to his feet and slowly hobbled down the track. With the tears streaming down his cheeks, he refused to surrender as he limped his way around the track. In the final turn, with about 120 meters remaining, Jim finally reached his son. In an unforgettable moment, Jim tells Derek, "I'm here, Son," as he took Derek in his arms. Between sobs, he said, "We'll finish together." Arm and arm, father and son, continued down the track. Sixty-five thousand fans were all on their feet, cheering and clapping and crying. A couple of feet from the finish line, with the crowd in an absolute frenzy, Jim let go of his son so that Derek could cross the finish line by himself. That's what it means to encourage - to come alongside.

Source: <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/encourage-one-another-dan-raymond-sermon-on-second-chances-199001?ref=SermonSerps> (Show John 14:26)



In life, we will be discouraged while living on this earth. The Apostle John writes about the Holy Spirit as our helper. He writes, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26). It is like the Holy Spirit is right beside us.

(Show African woman carrying bushes on top of their head)

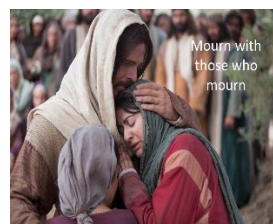


The Karre Language of equatorial Africa was difficult for the New Testament translator, especially when it came to *Paraclete*. How could they describe the Holy Spirit? One day the translator saw a group of porters going off into the bush carrying bundles on their heads. They noticed one didn't take anything. They assumed he was the boss, who was present to make sure the others did their work. However, they discovered he was not the boss. Instead, he was there so that, should anyone fall over with exhaustion, this man would pick up the man's load and carry it for him. The person was known in the Karre language

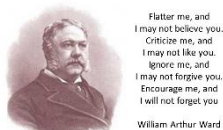
as "the one falls beside us." (Falling Down Beside Us - Ian Coffey, "Deep Impact Keswick 99" (OM Publishing) (1001 illustrations that connect #195, page 114). Source:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=nDIrhByIsR0C&pg=PA114&lpg=PA114&dq=Ian+Coffey,+%E2%80%9CEep+Impact+Keswick+99%E2%80%99&source=bl&ots=aVON-BQdzb&sig=Ggh5zggTKUKqbpHG453QI4IITbo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwirq4-LioTfAhWno1kKHTtJAWYQ6AEwAHoECACQAQ#v=onepage&q=Ian%20Coffey%2C%20%E2%80%9CEep%20Impact%20Keswick%2099%E2%80%99&f=false>

III. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, let us "encourage one another, build each other up and empowering one another." (Show rejoice and mourn)



There are many ways that we can encourage one another. We may "speak with comfort word, just sit there and listen, A hug, a smile, a gift, or a word of appreciation." When you encourage others, don't think of too high yourself because you feel you are better than others. Encouraging others like the Apostle Paul writes, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (Loos 12:15). (Show William Arthur Ward)



William Ward writes, "Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you." (William Arthur Ward) Source:

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd
That's relationship!

I shall not want
That's supply!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
That's rest!

He leadeth me beside the still waters
That's refreshment!

He restoreth my soul
That's healing!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
That's guidance!

For His name's sake
That's purpose!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
That's challenge!

I will fear no evil
That's assurance!

For thou art with me
That's faithfulness!

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me
That's shelter!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
That's hope!

Thou anointest my head with oil
That's consecration!

My cup runneth over
That's abundance!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
That's blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
That's security!

For ever
That's eternity!

Psalm 23 gives an example of encouraging one another, build each other up, and empowering one another:

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Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me
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Show next screen

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Source: <http://ministry127.com/resources/illustration/psalm-23>

Let us watch a Thai video show about "carry each other burden's – Thai video." (**Show video Carry Each Other's Burden – Inspirational Video – 3.05 Min**) Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKGGvhcdRBE>



2-10-19 - Carry Each Other's Burdens - Inspirational Video - YouTube 3.5 Mln.wmv

The video illustrates how we can carry each other's burdens through various acts of kindness. (**Show John 13:34-35**)



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, let us turn to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for encouragement. Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." (John 13:34-35).

(**Show encouragement to the glory of Christ**)



Love one another is to encourage and empower one another. Let us be at peace and continue to encourage one another. Whatever happens in the past, don't let the devil discouraged you. Let us look to the future so that whenever or wherever, we can encourage each other by empowering one another to do it for the glory of Jesus Christ. Amen. Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Children Message

Standing Ovation



Theme: Standing Ovation

Object: A standing round of applause (use a sign that reads "Give a standing round of applause" and show it to the congregation after the child performs)

Scripture: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
(1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

Good morning, boys and girls. How are you today? Do you feel terrific? (*Let them answer.*) I am going to make you feel better than you do right now. I am going to make you feel super! All right, I need some volunteers. (*Select one boy and one girl*). You are my volunteers, and I am going to make you feel excellent. What I want you to do is to tell me a story or repeat a poem or sing a song that you know. It can be a short story, a short poem, or a short song. Do you think you can do this for me? (*Let them answer*). Okay, who wants to go first? (*Select one of the children who has volunteered; then after he/she has performed, hold up the sign to the congregation and lead the applause; repeat with each performer*).

That was great! Do you feel good? (*Let them answer*). Do you feel better than you did before? (*let them answer*). Wonderful. Do you think that all of the people in our church are encouraging you? Do they want you to feel better? (*Let them answer*). The Apostle Paul knew how important it was for Christians to feel good about one another. Sometimes things are hard to accomplish, and we don't get many thanks for doing things that need to be done. How many of you have ever received a standing ovation for forgiving someone or sharing something you have that someone else needs? If you give one of your toys to someone who doesn't have any toys, or if you take care of someone who is hurting, does a crowd of people stand up and applaud you for doing it? (*let them answer*). Probably not! But having someone say thanks to you sometimes is almost better than applause. When I made a phone call and prayed to someone sick, she said, "Thank you for calling me and it had encouraged me today."

We can't always have standing ovations for our work. But we can encourage people who do nice things by saying, "Thank you!" We can help people feel better about the good things they do by telling them how much we love them and appreciate them. We can thank our teachers for teaching us our doctors for keeping us healthy, our firefighters and police officers for making us safe, and our parents for taking care of us every day of our lives. Let's stand and applaud our choir for singing so beautifully. (*Lead the children in standing and applauding each of the people you name*). Let's thank the organist and the ushers. Let's ask our Sunday school teachers to stand so we can thank them. Let's thank our parents for giving us such a great life at home. Remember what the Bible says, "Encourage one another and build each other up as you are doing."

Remember that Jesus will always encourage us when no one else will. When you applaud or hear someone say, "Thank you, Great Job, Outstanding, Excellence, you will remember that we are encouraging them, and we also encourage one another.

Prayer: Gracious God, please lead each of these children this week to someone who needs to be encouraged. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Adapted from:

Wesley T. Runk, *The Giant Book of Children Sermon: Matthew to Revelation* (Lima: CSS Publishing Company, Inc., 2003).

GIVE A STANDING AROUND OF APPLAUSE

