

BUCYRUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

“??”

Youth Sunday

Sheba Sulser

Text: Hebrews 10:23-25, 3:12-14 (2nd text read later in sermon)

Good morning. I would like to tell you all a story about something that happened to me a while back. But first, I want to give you a little information about myself that could easily be forgotten. You see I'm not exactly the biggest one here. (Compare to Gwen) And for my age and grade I am one of the smallest kids. (However, if you ever tell me any of this I'll deny it). But for this story that's important to know, and you also need to understand that I weigh 82 pounds (on a good day), and at the time I weighed even less. So before I embarrass myself even more and tell you that I'm not even 5 feet tall yet, let's start the story.

It all happened 2 years ago in Ag class. Since it was FFA week we did a different, fun activity everyday, and that day just happened to be the day of the tractor obstacle course. You see, my Ag teacher had this lawn tractor that he hooked to this medium sized plywood wagon, and you would have to drive through a course of 2x4's until you got to a certain point and then back the trailer into a marked off area. As soon as my teacher showed us the course all the boys were eager to give it their best shot, trying to beat each other's times and the times of the high schoolers before them, so the girls were pushed to the end of the line. We only had a few more minutes in the period when I finally got a turn.

I don't usually drive riding lawnmowers so I didn't see the weight limit thing as much of a problem. So I started the course. Having driven tractors a lot in the past I went through the first part pretty easily. Then, when I went to back up, I reached for the gear shift to pull in back into reverse, and it completely shut off, and before I could even think about starting it up again the bell rang releasing us to our next class. (Explain why tractor shut off)

The next year FFA week came and so did the day of the obstacle course. I still wasn't sure if I could make the weight limit, only being a few pounds heavier than the year before. Knowing that the same thing may happen again, the boys let me go towards the beginning of the period, all hoping for a good laugh (again). I hopped on hoping for better results, but right before I touched the throttle my Ag teacher told one of my class

mates (that wasn't much bigger than me) to ride on the tongue of the wagon and hold the back of the tractor's seat down so it wouldn't shut off.

I went through the first part of the course flawlessly, however when I went over a bump I flew off the seat, but just as it was about to shut off my classmate jumped on the back of the seat keeping the motor running so I could finish the course.

The point of this story is not just to make you laugh, or to realize just how small I really am. The first year I did this course it took every ounce of me (literally) to hold down the tractor seat and make the weight limit so I could keep the garden tractor from shutting down. But I just couldn't do it that year. The next year, without the helping hand of my classmate, I wouldn't have been able to complete the course... again. But with his help I did.

Read: Hebrews 3:12-14

God says, "... encourage each other every day..."

After we are saved God doesn't want us to sit there like bump on a log. He wants us to help lead others to him

In some ways this is how I see our journey to God. It takes every part of us, and all of our dedication to be completely focused on God. However, this can be tough, with sin and Satan you can be easily tempted away from Christ. This journey can be really difficult alone. That's why sometimes you need someone to hold down the seat of your tractor, to be there when you need them to lend a hand in prayer, but also to sit back and be supportive when there's that one obstacle you need to conquer alone.

Most of us have friends in Christ that are with us when the going gets tough (I know I do - church fam). But, are you that friend for someone else? Are you there when others need to talk about God? One way that I feel that I was able to be this person for someone is when I got a text one night from my friend, they said, "this is hard for me to ask but I'm going through a tough time right now and was wondering if you could pray for me and my family?" That feeling that someone trusted me to pray for them meant so much. That they knew me well enough as a Christian and as a friend to ask me to pray for them. It was pretty awesome.

There will be times when you find yourself on the tractor and you need a helping hand (maybe you have in the past).

But will you be there when it's someone else on the tractor looking for your helping hand.

How are you helping someone?

