



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

May 17, 2009

Easter 6 2009 - Shrek

One of my favorite movies of all time is the first movie of SHREK. Shrek is a lovable green ogre who just wants to live a quiet life in his swamp. That is until Lord Farquaad decides he needs to round up all the fairy tale characters and sends them to the swamp where Shrek lives. One of those characters is a talking donkey who decided not to talk while being questioned by the guards. Some magic dust accidentally falls on him and he both talks and flies. But he does not fly for long and is chased by the guards through the forest. That's when he runs into Shrek and of course the guards flee when they see Shrek. Donkey then follows Shrek home and Donkey talks. A lot. In the walk between the forest and the swamp Donkey thinks that he and Shrek have become best buddies but Shrek does not give any emotion away. Shrek is self sufficient and needs nobody.

That night Shrek is beginning to settle down until he hears the noise of all the fairyland characters in his swamp. When he asks them what is happening they tell him lord farquaad has sent them to his swamp. Shrek tells them he will go himself and get it sorted out but he needs someone to go with him. Everybody is quiet except for donkey who is jumping up and down saying choose me choose me. Shrek ignores him because donkey has literally driven him up the wall, but in the end Shrek tells donkey he is going with him. As they begin their journey donkey who is so excited says something like 2 stalwart friends off to a big city adventure.

In the preview of the movie when you have to be pick to play movie or watch scenes or whatever, it has donkey jumping up and down saying choose me choose me.

Choose me

During our lives there are many times that we are chosen. As children at school we are chosen to play sports or be on academic teams, the chess club or other activities the school offers.

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210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 info@stjohnsky.com www.stjohnsky.com



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After school we are chosen to attend a particular college or trade school. After college we are chosen to work at a particular business or we may choose to start our own.

In relationships we are chosen by a partner.

Then throughout life we have the disappointments of wanting to do something and then not been chosen. We wanted to play sports and were not good enough. We wanted to go to a particular school but were denied for some reason. We wanted a particular job but somebody else got it. We were madly in love with somebody but they would not offer us the time of day.

It is part of life that we do not get chosen for everything because of some reason.

Yet we all are here today because we have been chosen by Jesus. Every single one of us. Here because Jesus has said I chose you.

Now many of us think that we made the choice to believe in Christ and become a member of a faith community. Some of that is true but the initial move to each one of us was made by god through Jesus. I chose you. Not because of anything good you may have done, not because of how you look, not because of where you live or what you drive , or where you work. No I chose you because you have the potential to love. You have the potential to love.

I am choosing you because I know that somewhere in side of you there is the capability to change the way you live your life to the way I know you can live your life and the way I want you to live your life. A life of love. Jesus has chosen us and we have responded by at least being here. But being here is not the be all and end all. We have been chosen but we also been appointed to bear fruit by our life of love.

You know, we have all been chosen but it all boils down to how we treat other people as to how we bear fruit.

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Simple acts of kindness, a smile to a stranger, treating the janitor the same as the chief executive, giving a helping hand to someone who is struggling, a kind word about somebody. All these are simple acts of love that define who we are. People of love.

When I was a kid I was not very good at soccer. As kids we would play on the field at the end of our street and we would always pick teams. I was nearly always picked last unless it was between me and a girl. But you know what I still played. Not very good but I Still played.

I know there are lots of things in life we feel we are not good at but loving cannot be one of them. All of us have the capability to love and to love well, and to love as Christ loved us. God chose you because God knows that if you really want to, you can be a person who really loves.

So when God chooses us let us not say here I am send someone else. Lets say here I am send me.

When we respond to gods choosing, it is just us and Christ setting off on this spiritual adventure called life. We say to Christ, as donkey said to Shrek, this is just like two stalwart friends off to a big city adventure. The big city adventure with Christ is to be a person of love. You did not choose me. I chose you because I believe that you can do it.

Amen.

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