

## 2019 LWML Sunday

### Children's Message

By Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy

### “Doing the Hard Thing”

Text: Luke 17:6

Object: Picture or Slide of a Mature Mulberry Tree and a Mite Box



I want you to think about something that is really hard to do, something that might take a lot of time and a lot of work to accomplish. Sometimes children like you have to do things that aren't easy. For example, when I was a child, I had to learn how to ride a bike, put a worm on a fishing hook, ice skate, and how to multiply. None of those things was easy for me. Think about it. What are some hard things you have had to do? Or maybe, what are some hard things ahead of you? (*Wait a few seconds.*) Now let's hear some of those hard things. What's a hard thing to do? (*Children share hard things to do.*)

When Jesus taught His first disciples, He asked them to do some hard things. He said that when someone did something bad to them, they needed to tell that person how they had been hurt or wronged. He said that they then needed to forgive a person, even if that person wronged them seven times in one day! That's not easy! Jesus' disciples thought it was almost impossible. That's when Jesus looked at a big mulberry tree nearby and said that with just a little trust in Him they could tell that mulberry tree to transplant itself at the bottom of the ocean, and it would obey! What do you think Jesus meant by that? (*Children share responses.*)

Here is a picture of a mulberry tree. (*Hold up an enlarged picture or show slide.*) It would take hours of work and thousands of dollars to move this tree to a new place, and even then it might not survive. Moving a mulberry tree is a very hard thing. Moving a mulberry tree to the bottom of the sea, most people would say, seems impossible. Jesus is telling us that when we trust in Him, He makes doing hard things possible. After all, He loves us. He gave His life for us. He saved us. He made sick people well and quieted big storms. We can trust Him. So when we face hard things, we know that Jesus will be there with us to make us strong and brave. We can do hard things when we trust Jesus. We can even tell people when they've done something wrong and forgive them, just as He has taught us to do.

Speaking of hard things, sometimes it is hard to tell others about Jesus. It would certainly be hard for you to leave home and become a missionary, wouldn't it? Today we're giving thanks for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League because they make it easy for us to help spread the love of Jesus across the world. Take a mite box home with you today and save your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Help the LWML share the good news of Jesus. It's another way big things get done with just a little faith in a great Savior!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, when we face hard things to do, give us trust in You. In Your name. Amen.