

**Sermon 2010 Pentecost 19**  
**Text: Luke 17:1-10**  
**Theme: "Asking in Faith"**  
**10-3-10**

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**I will tell you now that that is the hardest part of my job. My human nature always wants to judge people and judge motives. I want to think I know why you did something or said something. I want to think I know what you were thinking when you executed your latest sin caper. But the reality is – it does not matter. My job is never to figure out why you sin. My job is to forgive your sin. If you want some help trying to figure out why you are tempted by certain sins, I will be glad to use my theological and psychological background to help you do that – BUT that is not my**

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**Turns out, we already have the power. What is the greater miracle? When a mulberry tree is uprooted and planted in the sea or when a soul is washed clean and reserved for paradise? The power of faith is hidden from the world. Like a tiny mustard seed grows into a magnificent plant, so too our faith that is invisible can do amazing works. Jesus has set me aside to feed and forgive you, but you have been baptized and so you are sent out to feed the world and bring them here to be forgiven through Word and Sacrament.**

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**But I need your help. I am asking for your help like the apostles demanded from the Lord, INCREASE OUR FAITH! I am your leader but I cannot do this alone. I need your time. I need your talents and I need your money. These are only the first steps of what is going to be an amazing center for the Gospel. Someday Trinity will own this whole block and we will have a senior apartment building and a full time Christian Daycare and Preschool. We will have an afterschool center for middle school age youth and a resale shop to raise money for our external missions. We will fund Asian Indian Ministry and Urban Missions in Chicago and a new one that you will be hearing more about soon is that we will be partnering with Lutheran World Relief in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative a mission to wipe out malaria in our world by 2015, a disease**

**that kills hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters in Africa every year.**

**What can you do? Volunteer and get involved with the mission. Find ways to talk to your neighbors and invite them to come here and join us in our mission. Did you know that the average Lutheran invites someone to church once every 27 years? I think our average is considerably better than that but it is still not where it needs to be. I challenge you to consciously look for people to invite to church – at least one family per month and keep track. I want to know what you are doing so keep track and send me a message telling me.**

**Use your talents and I don't know what your talents are so don't wait for me to call you or write you. I need at least 4 more people on the Evangelism Board right now. I need at least 4 more people on the Youth Board right now. I know you are all busy and have a thousand excuses for why you cannot serve. People are dying folks. People are living in horrendous spiritual pain. People are lost and don't even know it. Drop your excuses and serve God. Call me or email me and tell me how you want to serve and I will plug you in. I need your help and I'm asking. A few lay people, the ministry staff and I cannot pull this cart alone.**

**And I need your money. There is no reason for this congregation to ever have a deficit. We are incredibly blessed by God. Almost all of us have regular income. Almost all of us have our own homes or homes of**

**our choosing. Almost all of us regularly spend money on leisure and vacations and all manner of luxury. It is shameful for this congregation to have a deficit. I'm asking. Get out your checkbook right now and fix that deficit and there are only a very few who are doing all they can do.**

**Christ has given me this vision for Trinity. But on top of what I get done here, I am leading 6 other congregations as the Circuit Visitor and supervising the Vicar at Our Savior in Norwood Park and I turned to him this past week when I had been at work for about 15 hours one day and said "Jesus, give me some help here." Throw me a bone Lord. Enough is enough. And he said to me through this text,**

**You ninny. I have given you all you need. You can uproot Mulberry trees and plant them in the ocean. You already have all you need to build a daycare and senior apartments and a thrift store and much, much, much more. I have given you 600 people to help you. ASK THEM! I have given them time to give to this vision. I have given them talents to use. I have given them far more money than you need. ASK THEM! So, I'm Asking.**