

**McCabe United Methodist Church**  
**"The Little Bug"**  
**Luke 19:28-40: April 14, 2014 (Palm/Passion Sunday)**  
**Pastor Rick Fossum**

A long time ago, one of our kids brought home a book from school called *The Little Bug*. It's a cute, silly little story. Actually, if you read the book, it's like a parable. A parable is not a true story, but parables do have a powerful meaning or ethical or moral points to make. See if you can spot the meaning in the story. This is a parable about a little bug who lives in a dark and dreary hole.

One day, out of nowhere, a little bug hears a strange voice. The voice said, **"Hey little bug, why do you live in that dark and dreary hole?"**

The bug shot back, **"Because I'm small, that's why."**

**"So what,"** the voice asked?

**"Well,"** the bug explained, **"if I leave this dark and dreary hole of mine and go outside, a bird might get me."**

**"That's true,"** the voice agreed.

**"Or,"** said the bug, **"some big person might come along and step on me."**

**"Ouch,"** said the voice. **"That would hurt!"**

**"Or,"** the bug continued, **"some weird little kid might catch me and stick me in a jelly jar and I'd starve to death."**

**"That's true too,"** the voice said. **"It could happen."**

**"So, why should I leave my dark and dreary, but safe hole,"** asked the little bug?

The voice replied, **"Why? Why to travel on the winds that blow, that's why. To feel the warm breath of the sun on your back. To taste the sweet nectar of the rose, that's why my little bug."** And the voice didn't say another word.

The little bug thought about it all day long. The very next day, he decided to leave his dark and dreary hole. Once he was outside, the little bug was carried away on the winds that blew, he felt the warm breath of the sun on his back, he ate from the tasty flowers and he played in the tall grasses. He was a very happy little bug.

In time, he met another, little bug just like him. **"I love you,"** he said.

**"And I love you too,"** the other bug said to him. And they built a beautiful

nest together and soon many little bugs were born to them.

It's a parable about freedom, isn't it? It's about living life as God intended even if you're only a little bug.

Do you know someone who is stuck in some dark and dreary hole? Maybe, not literally, but stuck someplace in life? Do you know someone who is stuck in some routine or habit that isn't good for him or her, but they keep at it over and over again? Do you know someone who has been hurt by someone else? Hurt so bad that they can't forgive that other person? Do you know someone who isn't happy and tends to make others around them not happy? Do you know people who are angry or lonely or lost? Do you know someone who isn't living the life God intended for them? Do you know someone like that?

What about you?

Sadly, for many of us, it's easier and it's safer to stay where we are. We don't like dealing with change or the unknown. And so we hang onto our pain or loneliness or unhappiness or anger because it seems easier and safer.

Let me tell you another story. One day, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. Jesus knew this wouldn't be a pleasant trip. In fact, he warned his followers it wouldn't be easy. He said, **"There's people in Jerusalem who don't like me. These people are going to arrest me and hand me over to a bunch of other people who don't even know me. And these other people are going to make fun of me, spit on me, beat me and finally they're going to crucify me."**

**"Don't go,"** his followers begged. **"Stay here where you know it's safe."**

Can you hear them? **"Please Jesus, don't leave this dark and dreary hole. It's safe here. Don't go to Jerusalem. Stay here!"**

**"No,"** Jesus said, **"I have to go."**

So, why did Jesus do it? Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem that day knowing that he would be dead by Good Friday?

Take a look around this room. Do you see all the people sitting near you? You are the reason! You are the reason he went to Jerusalem. You are the reason he gave up his life! He did it for you and for your freedom.

In his dying, he freed us to live the life God intended. He freed us from the dark and dreary places of our lives. He freed us from the pain and grief and loneliness and sin that haunts us.

This is the beginning of Holy Week. Today is Palm Sunday. Holy week starts with a parade. It's a good and happy parade. People are laughing and having a good time. But by mid-week, in a few short days, it will be Holy

Thursday and the mood will change. It will grow darker outside and by Friday, Jesus will be dead.

For Easter to have any meaning at all, we need to go through Holy Week with all of its passion. We need to recognize the dark places in our lives that are keeping us from following Jesus and from being the persons we are meant to be.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. One day, the little bug heard the voice again. **"How are you doing,"** the voice asked?

**"Great,"** the little bug said, **"just great."**

**"Well,"** the voice asked, **"do the birds still try to get you?"**

**"Oh yes,"** said the bug, **"all the time."**

**"And what about the big people,"** the voice wanted to know. **"Do they still try to step on you."**

**"Yes they do,"** answered the little bug.

**"And the weird little kids,"** the voice asked. **"Do they still try to stick you in a jelly jar."**

**"Yes sir! All the time,"** answered the little bug.

**"Hmmm,"** said the voice, **"then, wouldn't you rather go back to your dark and dreary hole? Where you know its safe."**

**"No,"** said the little bug. **"Never!"**

**"Good for you,"** said the voice. **"Good for you."**

And so you see, following Christ brings us freedom which brings us life. We're free to live as God intended. Good for you!