

## Youth Sunday, October 21, 2007

### Message: Don't Lose Heart - Written and delivered by: Andrew Figueroa, Age 15

Hello and good morning. I'm Andrew Figueroa. Welcome again to our special youth service this morning and thank you for joining us. As you all probably know our theme today is, don't lose heart. To not lose heart means different things to different people but to me not losing heart means to never give up and always keep trying.

Throughout history, there have been many individuals who have stuck to this theme very well. During the black civil rights movement, Martin Luther King Jr. never gave in and never gave up although there was lots of conflict and violence towards both him and his family. One day some white supremacists threw a bomb in his house; luckily no one was home but they lost the house. Even after many other incidents such as this, he still fought for his cause because he knew that the freedom of all his people was more important than just his one life. Another example of a person who never lost heart was Gandhi who fought for peace in every approach other than a violent one. After the famous Salt March on April 5, 1930, Gandhi along with 60,000 others were arrested for picking up some salt. However, he continued to protest with his non-violence and because of him, India was able to gain its independence from Britain. He has left an everlasting impression in this world just for never giving up even when times got difficult.

I know it seems as if I am only talking about famous people but people in everyday life seem to be just as dedicated as Gandhi or Martin Luther King. A few days ago I saw a short movie about a man, Tony Melendez, who was born without arms. He found a way around this problem and today has a family, drives, and has become such a talented guitarist that he was given the opportunity to play for the pope. This man fought through his problems and was able to live his life to the fullest. This man is one of the greatest examples of somebody who doesn't lose heart.

Some people never seem to stop trying until the problem at hand is solved, even when it seems that there is nothing they can do that will change the situation, and no, I'm not just talking about my mother. However, time after time there are groups of people who seem to give up when times get hard. This should not happen in our community or in our world. People need to learn when the going gets tough, the tough get going and not give up on the cause or problem they are trying to solve.

So on that note let me leave you with a short story that a friend once told me. One day there was a donkey walking around outside of a farm. As he was walking, he stumbled into a deep hole in the ground. The donkey cried and cried until the farmer came outside to see what had happened. When he saw that the donkey had fallen into a deep hole he tried to think of ways to get him out. After a while of thinking he gave up and could not come up with any ideas on how to get him out and just decided that since his donkey was old and useless that he would fill the hole up and bury the donkey. The farmer went around to his neighbors asking them if they would help him fill the hole and bury the donkey. So, when the farmer and his neighbors started to fill the hole up with rocks, dirt, and trash the donkey then began to cry hysterically. After a while the donkey stopped crying. This got the farmer's attention so he looked down in the hole. What he saw astonished him. The donkey was shaking off the dirt every time they threw it down and began to step on top of it and was getting higher and higher off the ground; eventually, the donkey was high enough to jump out of the hole and, after doing so, he ran off.

Now I'm sure you're all thinking: what does this story have to do with anything? Because that's how I felt when my friend first told it to me, but the message of this story is that in your life you will be piled up with many problems and all this trash and dirt will be thrown at you. Nevertheless, what you have to do is just shake it off and fight through it and you can rise up from any dilemma. So, just like the donkey, don't let your problems bury you and don't lose heart. Thank you.