

“Mountaintop Vision”

Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36

February 10th, 2013

Rev. Jeong Park

Fair Oaks United Methodist Church

On behalf of Fair Oaks United Methodist Church, I would like to welcome our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts again. As a part of the United Methodist church, we are pleased to sponsor and support your good ministry at our church campus. When I read the statistic report on the scouting program, as of 2012, 6,700 United Methodist congregations served 363,876 young people through 10,868 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews. The United Methodist Church is second only to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (commonly known as Mormons) in the number of congregations that host Boy Scouts of America groups. The United Methodist Church hosts more Cub Scout packs than any other religious group. As far as I know, the scouting program started in 1910 for the purpose of providing educational experience, building character values, maintaining healthy lifestyle and offering service. I would describe that Scouting ministries have been one of our best leadership building programs in our nation and now all over the world. We thank the leaders of the Scouting ministries for your commitment and care for our young people. We are also proud of the young Scouts here today.

Speaking of service and leadership, there is an important role model in the Bible. We know that Jesus is our master, but Jewish people believed that Moses is the most important leader in their history. Both our Old Testament and New Testament readings mention Moses, because he was the greatest leader. So what made Moses a unique and great leader of the Israelites? What leadership lesson do we learn from him? This morning, I hope we learn something important from Moses' leadership, especially for our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Moses was an Egyptian prince. He was raised in Pharaoh's family and he fully enjoyed the blessings of a luxurious life. There was no reason to leave the palace, but when he saw the pain and suffering of the Hebrew slaves, he became compassionate to these weak, poor people and decided to leave the palace. He risked his own life to release the Hebrew slaves from slavery and spent the rest of his life to lead them towards the Promised Land. Moses was very compassionate to those who were in great need. Adam Hamilton, my colleague, serving the Church of Resurrection Methodist Church in Kansas City, points out in Numbers 12:3 that the man Moses was very humble, more so than anyone else. Throughout the Bible God chooses and uses those who are humble, who see themselves as servants of God. Jesus teaches the same thing when, on the

night before his crucifixion, as his disciples are arguing over which one is “the greatest,” he says, “the truly great among you will be your servant.” He proceeded to illustrate this by washing their feet. I believe that humility and courageous compassion were cores of Moses’ character and the essence of Jesus’ ministry and vision. This should be ours as well. When I reviewed the core values of the Cub Scout and Boy Scout law, they both emphasize values of compassion and courage and kindness and service to others.

We are celebrating our Scouting ministries this morning, but we are also here together to remember John Clune, one of our dear church members who died on Friday. Most of us are still in shock. He had pneumonia and was hospitalized early this week, but due to a massive heart attack while in medical treatment, he died. This is a big loss to all of us. He was only fifty-six years old. We all know that John Clune was such a good man and a faithful member of this church. It is hard to accept he is not here with us anymore. Our whole church will deeply miss him!

John Clune truly loved his family. He leaves daughter Krystyna and her husband Steve Williams. He has two very active grandsons, Ethan and Connor, who he loved dearly and he enjoyed going back to Ohio yearly to visit with them. He also has a sister Debbie and her husband Butch Sackett and brother Chuck Clune who are in Ohio, as well as many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Missy, and his parents. He was a hard working man who liked to be a leader and teach others the things he knew. He loved the outdoors and could just sit outside with a good book and enjoy life. He also enjoyed music (often being played loudly on his stereo) and camping. He had hoped to kayak down the Sacramento River. He really enjoyed the time he spent in California for the past 7 years. I know he loved our church and the people close to him here, especially Joyce and Cheri who care for him.

John was a Boy Scout and his father, John, was a Scout Leader. He was always helping others including his neighbors with lawn work, putting in flower beds, driving them to the airport to visit family. He was kind, and such a nice man. I am sure that the Boy Scout spirit helped to build his character. As his pastor, I remember his gentle smile every Sunday service. He always shared his greeting with me right after service. But most of all, in my memory of him, I remember an image of him when he wore his chef’s hat with a big scoop in the kitchen. As we all know, he was a wonderful chili cook for our Chili and Cake Auction. John’s family reminded me how much he loved cooking and serving people. It was in his heart, when he cooked. Cooking is a great way for showing his servanthood leadership to all of us. I am sure when he meets Jesus in heaven,

Jesus will say to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful. Come and share your master’s happiness.” He will be truly missed by so many who loved him and the way he touched their lives in small and big ways. I would like to thank John Clune for the times of happiness and good things of life that he shared with us on this earth. He was kind, humble and a great example of servanthood leadership. Amen.