

KINGDOM MINISTRIES

CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION CENTER CHURCH

CAYA

March 17, 2013

Pastor Staley Chase

“Never Give Up”

Sermon Introduction:

- In 1941 Sir Winston Churchill , Prime Minister of Great Britain delivered the commencement address at his old high school (Harrow School). He began his speech by saying “Never ever, ever, ever, ever give up”...he took his seat... he returned to the podium and said “Never Give Up”...he took his seat again...returned to the podium and said Never Give Up”.

Sermonic Text: ... Luke 13: 6-9 (Read)

- Jesus in this parable was speaking to His nation (Israel). ...His people.
- Israel was privileged, like a fig tree in a vineyard It basked in the sun and they rose high above the vines (that could choke them out); the sky was all its own (“the sky was the limit”).
- To the outward eye Israel’s history was a succession of disasters; but real blessings are not in material prosperity.
- Israel had the covenant of God, the lineage of prophets, and the commission to make God’s way known on earth...not unlike our great commission.
- With privilege comes responsibility as always...”**Noblese Oblige**” (**nobility obliges**...and we are all royalty...we are children of a King)
- The purpose of a fig tree is to bear fruit. Leaves and shade are no substitute for fruit. ...many in the body of Christ are just shade trees...standing around casting a shadow...the purpose of Christian trees are to bear fruit...Christians.
- Israel had become a leaf tree with an itch for wealth...seeking wealth has been the failure of men and nations...**still God was patient!**
- **The phrase “Three years”...”I have come”...** which is a testament to Jesus’ patience...God keeps coming!
- Despite man’s always postponed obedience God is still patient.

- The phrase “**This Year**” is” an anthem of grace”, Jesus is the “dresser” who is pleading for more time for us (the Intercessor).- **Romans 8:34 – (Read)**
- Some of us may have been or believe our existence , our life, our walk has been fruitless, some may be lacking nourishment, or may still be struggling with strongholds in our lives ...but the message is “Never Give Up”!!!
- God has promised to “Never Give Up” on us ...**Heb. 13 :4-6 & Mt. 28: 20 – (Read)**
- The two disciples walking with Jesus:
 - Said...”We had hoped”... the phrase indicates in their mind it is over ...instead of saying “ We still Hope”
 - They walked beside Jesus declaring their shattered faith...Jesus rebuked them ...**Luke 25 : 24 (Read)**
- Let’s not be in danger of having these words said to us...we can afford to lose every possession we have; except our faith in God, of truth, and love!
- Let us never express our faith in the past tense “**We had hoped**”; but may we always say “**I Have Hope**”... “Never Give Up”!!
- Biblical examples who stayed the course... never gave up:
 - Adam & Eve, Abraham, Moses, Saul, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul, Three Hebrew Boys.
- C-4 members who never give up:
 - Mother Beulah, Mother Hicks, Bro. Mandeville, Pastor Stan, Bro. Lockhart, and Pastor & .L. Cynthia; etc. (**CAYA members give other examples or testimonies**)
- Enduring the burden of crushing weight often gives Christians wings
 - David while enduring severe trails said...**Ps 55:6-(Read)**
 - Before he finished his meditation he realized that his wings were attainable – **Ps. 55:22 – (Read)**
- Every now and then we will be thrown under a bus; but God will bring us through without a tire tread mark on us!
- We can go through the fire and come out and we don’t smell like smoke!
- Jesus the “dresser “wants to work with us and on us: **Lk. 13: 8-(Read)**
- The “dresser” was willing to dig for one year –shovel around the root and fertilize (dung) ...every now and then we have to shovel our way through some “stuff”!

- Life is not always mountain experiences; every now and then we have a valley experience!
- The dresser came down through 42 generations to help us...and he has never given up!
- **“Keep Steppin”.....“Never Give Up”**
 - Often the last step is the winning step!
 - When heaven’s heights are in full view is when the gates of hell are the most persistent and full of deadly peril.- **Gal. 6:9 ; I Cor. 9:24 –(Read)**
 - The ultimate nightmare can be transformed into a dream come true.
- Jesus is the **light** as we shovel through the soil (stuff of life)...the word of God brings the light...this is the process of **“Spiritual Photosynthesis”**.
- **Praise and prayer will summon the light...Exodus 34:2-(Read)**
 - The morning is a critical time of day,
 - Never face the day until you have first faced God, you cannot expect to be victorious, if you begin your day in our own strength alone!
 - Begin the work every day; after being influenced by a few reflective moments between your heart and the Guest and the Honored Companion of your life –Jesus Christ
- When things get heavy be sure to pray as hard as you are worrying!
- You may not even know when He took the worries away...suddenly you realize they are gone
- By Faith believe it, receive it, know it, show it, bare it, have it, share it, and declare t it!!!
- Never Give Up ...Never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever give up!!!
- Sir Winston Churchill returned to the podium and shared these closing words:
 - ***“In nothing great, small, large or petty... never give in; except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force...never yield to apparent might of the enemy ...NEVER GIVE IN (UP)”***
- When you are dealing with marriage, bills, overwhelming odds, health issues... **“NEVER GIVE UP”...”LAY IT DOWN”**

“Always make your recreation a re-creation!”