IN NOMINE JESU
ST. MT. 25: 14-30 NOTHING VENTURED / NOTHING GAINED

IN ORDER TO GET THIS SERMON STARTED, I'D LIKE YOU TO FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH A NUMBER OF SAYINGS WE ALL GREW UP WITH. THE 1ST IS THE SERMON TITLE: NOTHING VENTURED____ Don't Hide your Light ____ / USE IT OR ____ / IF YOU SNOOZE, YOU ____ / PUT YOUR NOSE TO THE ____ / NO PAIN, NO ____ / A JOURNEY OF A 1000 MILES BEGINS WITH THE ____ / I'M SURE WE COULD GO ON & ON. THE POINT I AM TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT WE ALL HAVE BEEN GIVEN MANY GIFTS & TALENTS & JESUS WANTS US TO USE THEM! THE ONE MAN IN OUR GOSPEL BURIED HIS TALENT, FEARING THE REPRISALS HE WOULD SUFFER IF HE LOST IT. THE OTHER 2 TOOK THEIR TALENTS & MULTIPLIED THEM.

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW JESUS SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE TURNING THINGS AROUND? THIS WAS HIS SPECIALTY. THE PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN WHO I AM / TURN THIS AROUND! THERE IS A LITTLE GIRL DYING -- TURN THIS AROUND! PEOPLE ARE DISHONORING THE TEMPLE -- TURN THIS AROUND!..... JESUS CAME TO GIVE US A WHOLE NEW MINDSET. THE WORD "REPENT" MEANS TO TURN AROUND. / NORMAN VINCENT PEALE GIVES US THIS GREAT ADVICE: "WHEN YOU SEE A PROBLEM COMING DOWN THE ROAD, HOLLER, 'HELLO PROBLEM, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I HAVE BEEN TRAINING FOR YOU ALL MY LIFE!'"..... LOOK AT THE TEACHER WHO TOOK A SPECIAL INTEREST IN A CHILD BORN BLIND & LABELED "MENTALLY RETARDED" ONLY TO HAVE HELEN KELLER TURN INTO A WOMAN WHO HAS INSPIRED MILLIONS. / A YOUNG COUPLE ADOPTS A CHILD & SLOWLY THE FRIGHTENED LITTLE BOY GETS A TURNED-AROUND IMAGE OF WHAT REAL PARENTAL LOVE CAN BE / PHYSICALS & SCIENTISTS REVERSE THE PROGRESS OF DISEASES! / ARTISTS TAKE EMPTY CANVASSES & TURN THEM INTO PAINTINGS THAT TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY. /
A WOMAN WRITES A BOOK ABOUT SLAVERY "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN" FUELS A WAR THAT CHANGES AMERICA FOREVER. / WE HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN GIFTS & TALENTS TO TURN THINGS AROUND.

Scripture Alone / Faith Alone / ____

FILL IN THE BLANKS ONCE MORE: ALL DEPENDS ON OUR POSSESSING_____ GOD' S GRACE\ HIS UNDESERVED LOVE FOR US/GIVES US THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT WE CANNOT DO BY OURSELVES..... STEVE BROWN TELLS THIS MARVELOUS STORY ABOUT A KING WHO RULED IN A GREAT KINGDOM. HE ENJOYED BEING KING / ENJOYED ALL THE THINGS THAT WENT WITH BEING KING. HE GAVE JUSTICE & EQUALITY TO EVERYONE ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE KINGDOM LOVED HIM. WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT THE KING WAS GOING TO HAVE A SON, THEY WERE OVERJOYED. THE SON WAS BORN & HE QUICKLY BECAME THE APPLE OF HIS FATHER'S EYE. THE KING LOVED HIS SON MORE THAN HE LOVED LIFE ITSELF. EVERYDAY AFTER HIS LONG MEETINGS & HARD DECISIONS, THE KING WOULD GO HOME & PLAY WITH

SON IN THE GARDEN BEHIND THE CASTLE. EVERYDAY THEY PLAYED TOGETHER & EVERYDAY EACH LOOKED FORWARD TO THAT TIME TOGETHER. / ONE DAY THE KING WAS LATE & THE LITTLE BOY WAS WAITING IN THE GARDEN. HE THEN BEGAN TO EXPLORE AROUND THE FOREST BEHIND THE CASTLE. HE WANDERED AROUND & SOON IT BEGAN TO GET DARK. HE WAS LOST & HE GOT PANICKY & HE STARTED RUNNING AROUND, FALLING IN THE MUD. / ALL NIGHT LONG HE WANDERED AIMLESSLY. / AT DAYLIGHT HE EMERGED INTO A LITTLE VILLAGE -- ALL TATTERED & DIRTY & LOOKING LIKE A BEGGAR. HE RAN UP TO A MAN & SAID, "I'M THE KING'S SON! I'M THE PRINCE!" THE MAN SMILED & SAID, "YEA, SURE." / HE WENT TO ANOTHER ADULT & DID THE SAME THING.---- MEANWHILE THE KING WAS FRANTIC TOO. HE SENT HIS ARMY TO LOOK FOR HIS SON. / DAYS & WEEKS & MONTHS & YEARS WENT BY.....& HIS SON WAS NOT FOUND! THE BOY BECAME A BEGGAR / FELL IN WITH A BAD CROWD / THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, "MAYBE I'M NOT THE KING'S SON / MAYBE I DREAMED THE WHOLE THING UP." / SOON HE BECAME THE MOST WANTED CRIMINAL IN THE WHOLE KINGDOM, COMMITTING THE WORST CRIMES..... THROUGH SOME ODD CIRCUMSTANCES THE KING FINALLY LEARNED THAT THIS ARCH CRIMINAL WAS HIS LONG, LOST SON. THE SON WAS ARRESTED / PUT IN A DUNGEON / & THE KING HAD A DILEMMA! IF HE SET HIS SON FREE, THEN ALL THE CRIMINALS WOULD HAVE TO GO FREE. / HE WENT DOWN TO THE DUNGEON THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS SON WAS TO BE EXECUTED / ENTERED HIS SON'S CELL SAID, "YOU ARE MY SON." / "YEA, THAT'S WHAT THEY TELL ME, BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS ONLY A FANTASY." THE KING CONTINUED, "TOMORROW YOU ARE GOING TO DIE, & THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT . THE SON SAID, "I KNOW." THE KING CONTINUED, "SON, I HAVE DECIDED TO BREAK ALL THE RULES WITH WHICH I HAVE ~~EVEMY~~ Rulerch EMPIRE! YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE." AND WITH THAT HE LEFT.....AN IMPISH GRIN CAME ACROSS THE BOY'S FACE -- "THAT OLE SENTIMENTAL FOOL!" HE TESTED THE DOOR & IT WAS OPEN / DASHED OUT INTO THE NIGHT & RETURNED TO HIS OLD GANG..... TWO WEEKS LATER HE LEARNED AN AWESOME TRUTH / HIS FATHER HAD GONE TO THE GALLOWS IN HIS PLACE.

QUESTION; WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SON? DID HE COME BACK & REPENT OF ALL HE HAD DONE? OR DID HE JUST THANK HIS LUCKY STARS THAT HE HAD BEEN BORN THE SON OF A DOTING FATHER .....YOU & I ARE THAT SON! IT'S UP TO US! WHAT WILL WE DO WITH GOD'S GRACE? GOD HAS OFFER US ALL FREEDOM, GUILTY AS WE ARE. DOES THAT MEAN WE WILL USE OUR GIFTS & TALENTS, OR IS THIS A LICENSE TO LOAF? ..... HOLY CROSS IS BUILT ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT GOD'S GRACE GIVES PEOPLE THE TALENTS & ABILITIES TO DO THINGS THEY WOULD NEVER DO OTHERWISE! MY HIGHEST HOPE FOR YOU IS THAT ONCE YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH THE REALITY OF HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU, IT WILL BE A NEW POWER THAT YOU HAVE NEVER HAD BEFORE. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW HIM, I PRAY THAT YOU WILL KNOW HIM BEFORE THIS WEEK IS OVER.