

“Provision”

Sermon for March 24, 2019 Isaiah 55:1-2, 6-9, 1
Corinthians 10:1-5, 12-13. Luke 13:6-9

Sermon Text:

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches
in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

+++++

God makes provision for us. Any one of us, or all of us may be the fig tree that is not producing figs. It happens from time to time. We fall away. We forget. We sometimes step out of the stream of God’s life and begin to dry up. We are barely producing the leaves, but the fruit, the real evidence of God-effectiveness and God-presence is not there. So what does God do? God makes provision. The owner of the tree had said to the gardener, “For three years I have come here looking for figs and have found none. Cut this tree down. Why should it be wasting God’s resources? But the gardener, the one who tended the tree pleaded for mercy.

“Sir, let it have one more year. Let me dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

The gardener is the Christ, the personification of God’s grace and life. “Let me give a little more.”

Christ through the Spirit nurtures and tends us, supplying us with what we need from God’s rich and inexhaustible storehouse.

God is faithful. If we are stalled—really going through it—God makes provision for us. If we feel as if our backs are against the wall and there is no way out. God will make a way out. My ancestors coined the phrase, “God will make a way out of no way.”

This is God’s promise, to always provide. But we must apply, use, internalize and appropriate the provision that God has for us.

Two men stand stared in front of a painting in an art gallery. A man is playing chess with the devil. The devil is grinning from ear-to-ear because he has the man cornered. The title is “Checkmate,” indicating

that the game is over. The devil has won. His opponent has failed. He has no more moves. But the second man viewing the painting is an international chess champion. He looks at the painting longer, then suddenly he steps back, flabbergasted. "It's wrong!" he exclaims. "There's one more move." "We have to contact the painter," the chess champion says. "It's not checkmate. The King has another move!"

The ancient Hebrews found freedom only to face the Red Sea with Pharaoh and his armies in hot pursuit. God their king had another move!

Daniel was lowered into den full of hungry lions for defying a tyrant and standing up for his faith. The King had another move!

A 9 ft. tall fighting champion named Goliath called for a winner-take-all, one-on-one fight to settle the war. A little shepherd boy took him on. The King had another move!

Jesus was executed and buried for 3 days. But the King had another move! Do you feel beaten? The King has another Move! Feel trapped? The King has another move! Feel a failure—out of options? God, our king, through Christ, has another move!

This is our story, this is our song, praising our Savior, all the day long. God makes provision for us—in every situation, circumstance and challenge. For the King always has another move.

Amen.