

The 4 Little Pigs

Sermon Title: **The 4 Little Pigs**

Sermon Number: **6551**

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Leigh Danley McMurtry: God doesn't care about us being right. He cares about us being humble.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the sermon titled "The Four Little Pigs" by Lee Danley McMurtry. This sermon is 6551.

(Music Playing: 00:00:13 - 00:00:25)

Female: And now for "The Four Little Pigs".

Leigh Danley McMurtry: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brothers and sisters you need the word. Today's message comes from Proverbs 18 and 10. Proverbs 18 and 10 is a short verse. You're probably familiar with it. You probably just don't know where to find it, but it's Proverbs 18 and 10 and it simply says, "The name of the Lord is a fortified tower. The righteous run to it and are safe." The name of the Lord is a fortified, a strong, protected, guarded, reinforced, manned tower and the righteous run to it and they are safe.

So, I'm going to use for my subject this morning The Four Little Pigs, The Four Little Pigs. Now, I know what you're thinking. As a matter of fact, Ryan before she sang, she asked me "Mom, what you're going to be preaching about?" and I said, "Well, The Four Little Pigs and she said, "The Three Little Pigs and I said, "No. It's Four Little Pigs and she still, "Oh, I never heard that." I said, "Me either." But you know, so I asked God I said, "What do you want me to say? And he said -- "What do you want me to minister? And he said, "I saw four (00:01:49) pigs. And I was like four, 1, 2, 3, why they are four and it bothered me and I kept going, "God, I thought there were three and when I said that he had me to turn to Daniel Chapter 3, because I sounded like King Nebuchadnezzar when they threw the three Hebrew boys and into the fiery furnace and he looked in and said wait a minute. I thought we threw in three but it looks like a fourth when his in there and it looks like the Son of God. So, I got have but I was like "Okay God." We're about to preach the four little pigs and the fourth one is going to look like the Son of God. We're about to do this and then I said wait I cannot get in nobody's pulpit and say God is a pig. I can't say that the son of God is a pig then he took me to Philippians 2 where Paul reminded them to have a mind like Christ and he said you got to

remember Christ was the very nature of God, but he didn't use that to his advantage, instead he took on the likeness and he took on the form of man so that he could die for us. So, he let me know it was okay if I wanted to use this scenario to say that Son of God is like this pig in the story.

So, I was on board with God for a little bit, but then I was bothered by God wanting to use Proverbs 18 and 10. I was like should we use Matthew 7. I mean God listen this is what we could do. This is me talking to God. God this what we should do. If you use Matthew 7, we could do the wise builder, we can do the foolish builder, we can talk about if you are wise, you listen to the word of God and then you actually do it, that's like building on a rock and when the storms come and beat against the house, your house will stand but the but the foolish builder is the one who listens every Sunday to the word of God, but goes out there and won't do it and someone trials come and beat upon that house it falls. I'm like God that's what we should do. Right. And he was either laughing at me or he was waiting on me to be quiet so he could have his message his way and so once I got quiet, he began to speak and once I got still, he began to move.

So, God and I are going to use The Four Little Pigs this morning to make his word playing. Now, you probably know the story of The Three Little Pigs and you probably know it better than me, but I'm going to give it to you the way God gave it to me. Three little pigs were sent out into the world to build a life and home for themselves. Before leaving their dad offered each of them an opportunity to use his precious valued rock or stone that he had saved all these years to help them when it was time for them to start building their new life. He was going to use it and give it to them as a foundation rock, but they all had their own plan. So, they all decline using this stone. You see stone is very strong, but it's difficult to build with because stones come in all shapes and sizes. And so, it's difficult to make it level. So I kind of understood why they wouldn't have wanted that rock to get started because even as Christians we want life to be easy.

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No rejections, no hurt, no sad days, no rain, no storms. We just want everything perfect. We want to tell people how God brought us out. We just don't want to ever have to go in. The

dad explained to them the value of having a strong foundation and told them that in this life, they would face many trials and many dangers. And so to make sure they had as Ryan said assure foundation. So, these three pigs go out into the world with their different plans and their different mindsets and hearts. And their hearts and minds would be on display and represented by the building materials that they chose.

So, the first little pig as you know, he chose to build his house out of straw. He was not interested in working hard. He just wanted to play and have fun. His motto was YOLO, you only live once. So, he's lazy, self-found the easiest way to have shelter. Now, my parents stayed home today because they didn't want to run the risk, you know, the virus and everything. So, since they're not here, I'm going to talk about my dad. He can't stop me.

Well, so like most people I grew up in a rectangular shaped house. And so, to get from my bedroom to the den was a pretty long walk. Well, my dad would do this often. I would get in the bed and I don't get to sleep that much but when I do get to sleep, I cherish it and I got in the bed and as I told you guys before, sheets crisp everything perfect. I mean like my body was just, I was almost asleep. My eyes were closing and my dad says, "Leigh, come here really quick. Leigh, come to den really, really quick. Just come here for just a second. I need a favor."

My parents say I always stout all the way to them and all the way back. I don't remember it that way so -- but I get to the door and I say yes, and he goes. "Yeah, just grab that remote for me real quick." Lean over and get it yourself. Now, I think about it. Maybe I did stomp back but I don't know. But anyway, the point is in that moment. I thought why are you being so lazy? But the difference in my dad, he's a very hard worker and this pig is that this pig is not a hard worker at all.

He built this flimsy little straw house in less than a day and it left him with plenty of time to play gangs, post stuff, watch Netflix. His Christian life he heard about Jesus, believed he was real but decided he'd wait to get to know him when he was a little bit older. He felt he was too young to have real problems. But Romans 12:11 says, "Never be lacking in Zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord." But this little pig simply was not interested.

The second little pig took one look at the flimsy straw house of his brother and started laughing and decided I'm going to build my house out of sticks. My stick house will look way better than his little shack. And he had the mindset that some people get stuck in. You all know I may not be where I'm supposed to be. But thank God I'm not where I used to be. Spiritually then, he had one foot in heaven and one foot out. He was so busy comparing his life to others that he never considered comparing his life to the will of God. As long as he knew more than somebody else, he felt he was doing good.

He kind of reminded me of the guy who took his frustrations. He was irritating so he went directly to the past and he said listen, I love our minister of music great guy, but I think it's time for us to get a new one. He's I'm so tired of him singing. We sing the same two songs Silent Night and Old Little Town of Bethlehem. And the Pastor said actually you have a legitimate complaint. But since you only come to church on Christmas, they do sing other songs, the other 51 Sunday of the year. He thought by at least is going once a year, he was doing better than the other sinners and you all remember in Luke 18 when the Pharisees said, "I thank you I'm not like those sinners and the tax collector though said God have mercy on me." Jesus said that the tax collector would be justified and he said everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

This breakable stick like mindset made him vulnerable to be deceived by false doctrines because he knew he needed God. He just didn't want to spend the time getting to know him. James 4:17 says, "Anyone who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it sins." So, while his stick house is stronger than his brother's straw house, it is still weak and it is not strong enough to last. The third Little Pig was a lot smarter than the other two, although he did not want to build using the stone his father offered. He took his time to build. He looked at the blueprint. He followed all the recommendations.

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He used clay to make perfectly measured brick. When he finished, he was proud of what he had completed. It was perfectly symmetrical, perfectly strong. His Christian life, he

attends church every Sunday and Wednesday. He pays his ties. He does good works. His prayers are beautiful. I mean when he praised his words are eloquent with the right inflection and cadence. It took him a long time. The work was difficult, but he was diligent. The only thing about pig was that he spent so much time on making the outside look good that there was nothing on the inside just emptiness and darkness.

Since Reverend Stephanie Bronner is not here today, I'm going to tell one of our stories the way I remember it. She and I have been best friends probably since Moses parted the Red Sea, so it's been a while. I can't tell you half the stuff we've done to protect the innocent one. That's me. But she would force me to go to church so that we could go on dates. We weren't really going to church. We are really going to the sea(ph). Now don't get me wrong, church was always good but not our intentions and it was Reverend Stephanie's fault.

But this one time, we were really cute. I mean we were sharp. We decided we're going to wear these (00:11:15) suits and we had a tie and we knew everybody's going to be looking. They were. We were shocked. Yeah, we walked in and we sat down like what, I know, yeah, what? But before that, before we actually got there, because I wanted my eyebrows to look like hers because I think she's the most beautiful person in the world. She told me to put mascara on my eyebrows and I did it. So, I put black mascara on my eyebrows, you know, and we walked in I was looking good. But at some point, it got hot. I don't know. And I didn't know it but the mascara, mascara starts to run and I'm wiping and I forgot that I had mascara on my face and you know, I'm standing there because everyone's looking and I'm like, oh, you know, they're looking at me because I'm stunning. I didn't know they were looking because they were stunned and Stephanie's like "Hey, Leigh we need to get to the bathroom." And I'm like, no they're looking she's like, yeah, I know. We need to go the bathroom. I was like wait a minute. Everybody's looking at me now. She was able to drag me to the bathroom in full raccoon-face and I was embarrassed but it's her fault because we had gone to church for the wrong reason. We were so concerned with how the outside of us look that we took no -- no need for our inside.

So, these three pigs are set up in their houses and one day just as their father had said a trial came, sin, temptation, a test, a

storm, something difficult, a loss job, a loss loved one, a loss relationship, hurt, disappointment, failure, a difficult child, trouble in a marriage, a real trial came and this story refers to it as the Big Bad Wolf. The wolf came to house number one, the straw house. Pig number one understanding that his house was barely standing anyway, without the wolf blowing on it. He escaped out the back door in enough time to get a head start on the wolf. Most times when we're in a like mindset, it doesn't take a lot of huffing and puffing for us to know everything is about to come crashing down. The important thing is that at least pig number one wasn't so arrogant that he stayed and waited for things to fall apart. He ran to something stronger. So, he ran to the stick house. He told his brother what happened and his brother allowed him to come in and the second little pig thought, you know, it was enough that his name was on the church roll he knew to scriptures. He knew Jesus wept and the first verse of 23 psalm and he felt qualified to lead pig number one.

But second Timothy tells us to study so that we can show ourselves approved are not ashamed. So before he could even attempt to tell pig number one about what he should have done differently, the big bad wolf was at house number two and this house began to shake when the wolf started talking and just like that, the two pigs knew that those sticks would not hold up. So, they escaped out of the back door and ran to house number three, to the brick house. Pig number three began brag about how he took his time and all of the work he did and how it was better than what the other two had built and if it wasn't for his hard work the three of them would not be saved and pig number three just brag for a full five minutes about how smart he was and how kind of him to open up his super strong house to the other two, but Matthew 6 says "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them if you do you will have no reward from your father in heaven," and Proverbs 16 and 18 says, "Pride comes right before the fall."

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So, the crazy thing is the big bad wolf got to the brick house and started huffing and puffing and though it was strong and though it took lots of blows, it began to shake and brick by brick that house started to fall now. Now, how could this happen? How could a strong beautiful brick house come crashing down? Well, I

must confess. A few years ago, I was that third little pig in a brick house. I was once told by a deacon in church always, always be on the side of what's right, and I was. I was right. Every warning I gave, every word I spoke, I was right. But but I chose pride over humility because I was right and I learned the hard way. God doesn't care about us being right. He cares about us being humble. I've always loved God, always believed in Jesus Christ. I started giving myself credit for things I could not have done on my own. I gave myself credit for a life I thought I built. I was in church 24 hours a day talking about God so much that I didn't leave room to talk to God.

It wasn't until trouble came just like the big bad wolf that I realized I could not rescue me. I cannot save me. I cannot heal me. I could not fix me and brick by brick the life I constructed came tumbling down. There I was exposed before God. My heart overflowing with issues that I had never bothered to take to him and other than forgive me, the only other thing I could think to say while I was sitting there broken was Jesus and that's when Proverbs 18:10 came to life. The name of the Lord is a strong tower and the righteous can run to it and you will be safe. His name alone became my hiding place, my refuge. What the enemy meant to destroy me, the hurt, the pain. God use it to give me a new life, a new purpose, a new hope, a new mine, humility, love, obedience to his will to bring me closer to him and at the name of Jesus the strong tower, the enemy had to flee.

In Matthew 7, not only does Jesus talked about the wise and foolish builder, but he also says not everyone who says Lord, Lord is going to enter the kingdom of heaven but only the ones who do the will of the father. He said many will say to me on that day Lord, but didn't we prophesy in your name, didn't we cast out demons and perform miracles in your name? He said I'll tell them plainly. I never knew you, get away from me. And when that brick house fell, I realized where God was trying to get us this morning. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot simply do good for others to think we're strong. We have to do his will so that he can be strong through us. See, unbeknownst to those three little pigs their father's love for them was too great for him to leave them out there to perish. He knew they needed that precious stone that they rejected before they left home.

Psalm 1:18 and 22 says it like this, “This Stone which the builders refused became the chief cornerstone. You see, the cornerstone is your foundation stone. It’s the first stone you set when you’re constructing any building. It determines the dimensions, and the alignment, and direction of a structure and getting that Cornerstone wrong can cause the whole structure to fall, your whole life. That’s why Isaiah confirm long before Jesus arrived that he is the tested stone, a tried(ph) stone because he would take on the form of man and not sin. He would not waver. He would not change his mind. He is perfect. He is complete. He is solid. He is strong. He is not a failure. He is a firmly established foundation and that cornerstone Jesus has dimensions not measured by inches or cubes but on the scale of justice measured against righteousness. What architect can work in those measurements of justice and righteousness? Only God himself as the chief architect and surveyor can do that.

The fourth house in our story was not just the house. The father had built a house of worship attached to the strong tower. Jesus was the cornerstone of that church and his name is a strong tower and the three little pigs came running out of that brick. The father was standing with his arms open wide. He used the precious stone that they had rejected. And when the enemy the big bad wolf, your depression, your hurt takes one look at the father, listens to you call out the name of Jesus, he will flee. God knew no matter how great Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses or Isaiah was only he could come down as Jesus to save us. First Peter 2 calls us the living stones building up a spiritual house of worship to God and Christ is that precious cornerstone.

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And since every stone is connected to Jesus, the chief cornerstone, if you choose Jesus you too become unshakable and righteous. We are not righteous because of anything we have said or done or build but we are righteous through the blood of Jesus Christ. After completing the house of worship, they all got together and built homes for themselves knowing that they still had a strong tower and a house of worship that they could run back to. Where is your heart today? What mindset do you have today unless you have the mind of Christ when the wall starts to fall in your life. You will have nowhere to run to. How can you have the mind of Christ? You just have to seek God’s will and

then you have to do it. God is our father and he loves us. His grace is enough for you. Today, you have a chance to be tied into a mighty structure that Christian church, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, tomorrow is not promised. God's building is not finished yet, but on the last day the whole intricate structure of this mighty temple will be revealed and then all men will realize that there was only one name under heaven by which men can be saved and that name is Jesus, the strong fortified tower.

Let us pray dear God. Thank you so much for your grace. Thank you for your love and for your righteousness through your son Jesus Christ creating us today God a clean heart and renew a right Spirit within us. We no longer want to just be here as God and readers of your words, but we want to be doers of your words. We ask you right now for your Holy Spirit to help us and to guide us into disorder our steps God, so that everything we do everything we do will lead us back to you. These and all other blessings we ask in your precious son in Jesus name. Amen. Amen. God bless you.

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