

Friends,

One of my favorite things to watch with my young sons is old episodes of the television show Gumby. I'm guessing you remember the Gumby character. He's the tall, slender teenage boy made from green clay, who hangs around with his friends Pokey, Prickle, and Goo. Most of the episodes feature Gumby and his companions going on adventures and getting stuck in comical situations. There are often simple moral lessons that are taught through these stories.

For example, in one episode, a hornet is able to magically create bricks, and buzzes around putting bricks around any moving target. The situation is solved when Gumby and his friends use a hammer to free people from the bricks, and then tell the hornet that this is not nice to do to people, at which point the hornet learns his lesson and stops.

These little episodes are entertaining, and the way Gumby and his friends solve the situations usually bring a smile to your face. Yet, the truth is that life is not always this simple. People that do bad things don't always simply stop when someone tells them they're doing something wrong, and many situations we find ourselves in don't have a simple solution.

The season of Lent reminds us that we live in a complicated world, where things don't always get fixed as easily as they do on a children's television show. Our world is broken and affected by sin, and we must be realistic about the world we live in. Yet we must continue to rely on God's help to stay faithful no matter what difficult situations we find ourselves in. For as Psalm 95:4 indicates, "God rules over the whole earth, from the deepest caves to the highest hills." No matter how broken our world may seem, God is always in control in the end.

Blessings,

Pastor Jordan