Children’s Sermon for Climate Sunday

When I was a little kid, I learned a lot from my mom. When I got a new toy or new clothes she would always say, “Now, remember Roy, to take care of that. If you don’t, you won’t have it to use and enjoy any more.”

“Take care of that.” I want to show you some pictures this morning of a ficus tree. We’ve had this tree for 34 years. It was a beautiful tree. (picture before) For Christmas, we decorated it—so it became our Christmas tree. That tree grew and grew, sometimes reaching 8 feet high, so we would have to trim it back at times, it grew so tall.

Ten years ago, my sister was visiting us, and when she saw the tree she admired how beautiful it was. But she had a warning. If you want the ficus to continue to thrive, you are going to need to re-pot it, so its roots can spread and be strong.

Well, the tree looked so healthy and the leaves were so shiny, we just thought it was fine. So, other than watering it, we just let it be. We didn’t take care of it and the tree began to suffer.

One day, the leaves began to turn brown and drop in abundance. More and more branches were bare.. It looked sad.

Finally, we decided to do something. We took it out of its pot and discovered it was root-bound. (Picture of Solveig) The roots were growing up, back into themselves. We desperately worked to untangle the roots and put the tree in a larger pot. And we trimmed off the bare branches (picture after).

We don’t know if we were able to save it. When we repotted it, was it too little, too late? Will our grandkids and great grandkids ever see that tree thriving again as it once did?

Like our ficus tree, our earth needs to be taken care of: the waters, the soil, the air are suffering. And God is telling us, just like my mom: “Now, remember to take care of it. If you don’t, future generations won’t have it to use and enjoy anymore.”