



# One Page Sermon

## By Pastor Robb McCoy

### July 30, 2023

## The power to defeat the wicked

Sermon Recap from 7/30/2023

Scripture: Psalm 139

We begin our “Gospel According to Broadway” series with a production that is much more famous as a film than as a musical play. Released in 1939, *The Wizard of Oz* was one of the most influential films of the 20th century. The Wicked Witch of the West was named No. 4 on the AFI’s “100 Years, 100 Villains” list.

Our language is full of sayings that come from the movie, including: “I don’t think we’re in Kansas any more,” “And your little dog too,” “Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!” “Lions, tigers, and bears, oh my!” “Follow the yellow brick road,” and of course the climactic “There’s no place like home.”

This important line is said by Dorothy as she clicks her heels together to get home (after she missed the ride with the “wizard”). Glinda the Good Witch told her how to get home, and the secret is revealed that “she had the power all along.” When asked by the Scarecrow why she didn’t tell her at first, Glinda responds, “She would not have believed me.”

Dorothy needed to go on her journey. Like her three companions who had the brains, heart, and courage all along, Dorothy also held the key to her deepest desire within her. She simply needed to discover it was true and believe it.

The bulk of the story, of course, is within Dorothy’s dream. It is an inner journey for her to learn that she doesn’t need to run away to find peace and happiness. Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective Psalms. It is an inner journey that feels parts encouraging, part redemptive, part troubling, and part vengeful. It is a difficult Psalm to understand, but one that feels deeply human as well.

Dorothy and her companions had to learn that they had power within them. Psalm 139 is a reminder that we are all carefully made by God. We all created in the image of God, and even though the Psalmist asks for God to kill the wicked, we must be confronted with the truth that even the wicked are created in God’s image.

Dorothy thwarts the wicked witch by throwing water on



The famous 1939 version of *The Wizard of Oz* was not a huge box office success. It was overshadowed by *Gone With the Wind* and didn’t make a large profit until it was later re-released. Few people realize that it was the 10th screen adaptation of L Frank Baum’s book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which as published in 1900.

her, but the truth is that Dorothy was not trying to kill the Witch. She was trying to put out the fire that the Witch started. Her act of courage to save her friend, Scarecrow, is what led to the Witch’s demise. As she is melting, the Witch screams, “Who would have thought that some little girl like you could destroy by beautiful wickedness!”

The good news is that Dorothy had the power all along. The even better news is that you and I do, too. We have the power to destroy wickedness in the world. We destroy it by acts of courage. We destroy it by acts of kindness and love. We have destroy wickedness by abiding in Christ.

There truly is no place like home. And our home is in Christ. Our home is in self-sacrifice, generosity, forgiveness, justice, and kindness. We have the power to get home—at home with Christ when we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. At home with Christ as we work to resist the spiritual forces of wickedness.

The Psalmist and Glinda remind us—we have the power all along. To the shock and dismay of the wicked in the world. We have the power—as gifted by God and Christ—to live forever, abiding with Christ, somewhere over the rainbow.

**Next Week: The Gospel According to Broadway:  
*Fiddler on the Roof*; Ezra 3:1-7, 10-13**