

Our sermon tonight opens with Sprocket playing some game on an archaic computer and Doc comes shivering in through the door. He comments on how cold it is:

[Doc Voice] ‘and though the seasonal metamorphosis moves me in mysterious ways I still mourn the loss of nature’s abundance.’

Sprocket shoots him a confused look.

[Doc Voice] ‘the Garden,’

Doc explains. All of the plants in the garden have died because of the frost of Autumn.

[Doc Voice] ‘At least we still have Lucinda,’

But unfortunately, Sprocket hasn’t been keeping up with his duties to take care of Lucinda, the plant. Sprocket feels badly about Lucinda, but Doc reassures him that ‘Lucinda is a hearty specimen,’ and isn’t dead yet. They need to continue to water her and also talk to her. Doc says he read it in a book called: ‘You’re Okay, and Your Plant is Okay Too.’

[the congregation laughs]

So he begins telling Lucinda his whole life story while Sprocket giggles on the floor. In Fraggles Rock, a social event is taking place. Fraggles pair off and sing to each other in

something called a Duet-a-thon. It's a *very meaningful event* in which each Fraggie picks 'the perfect partner with which to blend their voice in song.' Mokey has picked Red. Mokey views the duet-a-thon as a meeting of minds, and a harmony of souls, they've written a song that illustrates their friendship.

But Red sees the event as having a different significance.

[Red Voice] 'It's a really neat contest that we're going to win!'

She proclaims proudly.

[the congregation laughs]

Even though Red and Mokey are roommates and best friends, and had apparently written the song ahead of time, they have different ideas about the content of the song.

Red wants it to be about a great warrior slaying dragons who then turns them into something called *Doozer dust*. Mokey doesn't want to sing about something so violent.

[Red Voice] 'Violence? What has dragon slaying got to do with violence?'

Red asks. Rather than argue, Mokey turns to Wembley and asks him what he and Gobo will be singing about. Wembley is horrified to realize that he doesn't know! He and Gobo hadn't actually talked about what song they are doing.

[Wembley Voice] 'I've been so excited about the duet-a-thon that I completely forgot!'

He cries. Wembley's words immediately resonated with me as I've often thought that we think too much about something, positively or negatively, and we forget to actually experience it.

Wembley runs back to his room to talk to Gobo but he's in the middle of writing a song. He needs a word to rhyme with treacherous. Wembley suggests lecherous, but Gobo tells him it's not a word. Maybe that's because the act of being lecherous is a foreign idea to the Fraggles so they wouldn't have a word for it.

At that moment, Uncle Travelin' Matt appears at the top of the stairs at the mouth of the cave. He wants Gobo to sing the duet with him. He says it will make him the proudest Fraggles in Fraggles Rock and begins to sob. Wembley sees this and, even though Gobo tells Matt that he already has a partner, says that Gobo should sing the duet with Matt. Wembley leaves the cave saddened. He's fighting back tears and a Doozer comes up and lends him an empathetic ear. Wembley tells her he is sad because

[Wembley Voice] 'I did what I was supposed to do, which was what I didn't want to do but I knew I had to do and now I don't know what to do.'

The Doozer says that she understands and assures Wembley that 'it happens to the best of us. Of course not me, because I'm a Doozer with a very positive outlook on life.'

[Wembley Voice] 'I used to have one of those,'

Recounts Wembley.

[Doozer Voice] But that's because I never take no for an answer,'

The Doozer explains.

[Doozer Voice] 'Never?' 'Never. If one road is blocked I take another. If one building is finished I simply start another one. If one drawing is no good I make one that's better . . .

Wembley has already gotten the idea and leaves her to continue listing off examples. As he's considering the things the Doozer told him, he bumps into Boober and the idea shoots immediately to Wembley's head. He'll sing the duet-a-thon with Boober!"

[the congregation laughs]

But unfortunately, Boober hates the duet-a-thon.

[Boober Voice] 'It makes me really tense and I get nervous thinking I might lose.'

* maybe my imitation of Boober Fraggles will make Greg lose it. Last time Greg was holding his chest and slapping the armrest of the couch – try for an encore

That's such a pessimistic and defeatist way to look at things. *We* put the limitations on our own abilities. If we say we can't do something, we probably won't be able to. Also, one shouldn't spend their time worrying or feeling anxious about things. Most of the things we worry about never happen.

[Wembley Voice] 'You might win,'

Wembley interjects.

[Wembley Voice] 'That makes me ever more nervous!' Boober shouts.

A female Fraggles, Tosh, comes up behind Boober and Wembley and coughs.

[Tosh Voice] 'I hope I'm not interrupting anything.'

* watch the episode again to get a better idea of a Tosh voice

[Boober Voice] 'Of course you're not, Tosh,'

Boober gushes and it's the first time I ever remember Boober exhibiting any sort of sexual preference. Tosh asks him to sing with her in the duet-a-thon. She even wrote a song for Boober and her to sing together.

[Tosh Voice] 'It's called: the sun shines in the sky like a rhubarb in a pie.'

[Boober Voice] 'What a sentiment,'

Gasps Boober.

[Boober Voice] 'I have never been so moved in my entire life.'

[Tosh Voice] 'So you'll be my partner?'

Tosh asks.

[Boober Voice] 'Of course I will.'

Boober exclaims jumping up and down, holding Tosh's hands.

[Tosh Voice] 'I love the duet-a-thon.'"

[the congregation laughs]

[pause for 'out of character' aside]

Nothing like the opposite sex to bring you out of a funk, eh Boober?

[pause for laughter]

So Wembley needs to find someone else to be his singing partner for the duet-a-thon. And cue musical number.

[Wembley Voice] 'One does not make company. I walk alone cause there's only me.'

Wembley gets emo for awhile. Which turned back to laughter.

[Wembley Voice] 'I sing alone, but it's meant for two.'

At the end of the song he begins crying again and the same Doozer from before sees him and tries to help him. They get to talking and the Doozer, you finally learn that her name is Cotterpin, discovers that the duet-a-thon is about singing. And she says she loves singing and that she'll be his partner in the duet-a-thon.

So they begin writing a song together but both are disagreeing about what song they should sing about because Wembley wants to sing about Fraggle stuff and Cotterpin wants to sing about Doozer stuff.

[Wembley Voice] 'We may be different, but we're still friends, right?'

Wembley points out. They finally agree to, instead, sing about friendship.

[Cotterpin Doozer Voice] 'You're pretty smart for a Fraggle,'

Says Cotterpin.

[Wembley Voice] 'You're pretty fun for a Doozer,'

Replies Wembley.

[The congregation laughs]

So they begin writing their song about friendship. Meanwhile, Gobo has told Matt that he thinks that he should sing with Wembley but then Matt wants to sing with Wembley. The gang gets together and they're all switching partners or saying they'll drop out so that they can work it out that Wembley will have a partner. And they keep shooting around combinations of Fraggles but in the end Gobo says that the plan still leaves Wembley without a partner.

Wembley is walking down the cave after just leaving his practice with Cotterpin and singing as he bounces around happily. He bumps into Matt who informs him that he has -

[Travelin' Matt Voice] 'the honour,'

- of having Matt as a duet partner. Wembley explains to Matt that he already has a partner and starts on his way to the Great Hall to sign up for the duet-a-thon. Matt runs off in search of Gobo. Wembley signs up and the Fraggles taking down names is astonished when he tells her he's singing with a Doozer.

The Fraggles taking down names is outraged:

[default Fraggles Voice] 'This is no time to play games . . . I'm trying to organize an important event here.'

Wembley insists he's not playing games.

[Wembley Voice] 'I want to sing with Cotterpin.'

[default Fraggles Voice] 'But that's ridiculous,'

the Fraggles taking down names says with a dismissive wave of her hand.

[default Fraggles Voice] 'You can't sing in the duet-a-thon with a *Doozer*.'

[The congregation booes]

The way the Fraggles says *Doozer* leaves me feeling dirty. Ick. 'Well why not?' Wembley, to me, is a creature who tries to be optimistic and exists in a state of child-like naiveté and to someone of that mindset the sentence 'you can't sing in the duet-a-thon with a Doozer' is in itself ridiculous.

The Fraggles taking down names doesn't come up with a very convincing reason why he can't.

[default Fraggles Voice] 'Because this is *Fraggles* duet-a-thon. That's why! The duet-a-thon is a fine old Fraggles tradition. And you can't just go changing the rules for a Doozer. Why it's truly the silliest thing I've ever heard.'

Wembley is shocked.

[Wembley Voice] 'Well, if this is a fine old Fraggles tradition, maybe I don't want to be a Fraggles anymore.'

I think we've all been there; where we see injustices being done for the sake of tradition and it makes one ashamed of the culture we belong to.

Meanwhile, in the Doozer city, Cotterpin is talking to other Doozers about the duet-a-thon but they don't think it's a good idea. They're worried Wembley will forget about her.

"My mom and dad said you can't never trust a Fraggie."

[comical aside]

Grammar police: that means you can."

[pause for laughter]

[default Doozer Voice] "They're just too silly to depend on. My mom and dad told me Fraggles lie all the time.' 'And they forget everything they say, right after they say it.' 'My mom and dad said all Fraggles hate Doozers.' 'And they don't care what we feel at all.' 'My mom and dad sai-' 'Will you be quiet!'"

But Cotterpin Doozer interrupts them.

[Cotterpin Doozer Voice] "You *drillbits* don't know what you're talking about.' Hmmm,"

drillbits: [pause for beat] euphemism or racial slur?

[default Doozer Voice] "We just don't want to tell you we told you so when the Fraggie lets you down.'

And immediately Wembley comes running down the cave towards them to let her

know that she can't be in the duet-a-thon because she's a Doozer.

[default Doozer Voice] 'We told you so!'

And the Doozer drive away on their Doozer stick road in their awesome 3-wheeler.

[Cotterpin Doozer Voice] 'They were right,' 'Fraggles do hate Doozers.'

Wembley tries to convince Cotterpin that it isn't true and that the reason she can't be in the duet-a-thon is because it's just for Fraggles.

[Cotterpin Doozer Voice] 'So much for friendship, huh?'

Cotterpin gets on her 3-wheeler and starts to drive off. He pleads for her to wait and tells her she has just as much right as anyone else to sing in the duet-a-thon as anybody else. And he's gonna go back and tell the other Fraggles that a duet-a-thon without her in it isn't worth having.

[Cotterpin Doozer Voice] 'You think they'll believe that?'

[Wembley Voice] 'Of course they will, because Fraggles don't hate anybody!'

[Cotterpin Doozer Voice] 'I'll believe that when I see it,'

[pause for congregation laughter]

Cotterpin scoffs before driving away.

[Wembley Voice] 'We don't hate anybody. I know that's true. It's gotta be.'

He goes to confront the other Fraggles:

[Wembley Voice] 'I've got something to say about stuff, and it's this: the duet-a-thon is supposed to be fun but I don't see how it can be if it means leaving someone out.'

[default Fraggles Voice] 'You're not talking about a someone . . . you're talking about a Doozer,'

The Fraggles says *Doozer* again as though it's a naughty word.

As Wembley's confronting the Fraggles, Cotterpin rolls up on her 3-wheeler in time to hear him say:

[Wembley Voice] 'So what! Cotterpin's as good as you and me, maybe even better cause she helped me when no one else would.'

[default Fraggles Voice] 'Well that doesn't matter. The duet-a-thon is just for Fraggles. That's the way it's always been.'

Hmmm, why does that sound familiar?"

[the congregation laughs]

And then Wembley says something so wonderful, I had to smile.

[Wembley Voice] 'Well I've got news for you. Just because something has 'always been' doesn't make it right.'

Amen!

[call for congregation AMEN echo]

He turns to the crowd and asks them:

[Wembley Voice] 'Does it?' 'And if my friend can't be in the duet-a-thon I don't wanna have anything to do with it!'

Gobo agrees with Wembley and says if Cotterpin isn't included, he doesn't want a part of it either. And then Red and Mokey express their agreement and pretty soon the entire crowd of Fraggles is on board with Wembley.

They begin chanting: 'We won't sing! We won't sing! We won't sing!'

Rather than include Cotterpin, the Fraggles who were taking down names suggests cancelling the duet-a-thon.

I've got a better idea. Instead of cancelling the duet-a-thon and making everyone unhappy, why not just let Cotterpin sing?

Finally the Fraggles who were taking down names has a change of heart:

[default Fraggles Voice] 'Well, that's the best idea I've ever heard!'

[the congregation laughs]

Cotterpin goes to tell Wembley how impressed she was with what he'd said and they sing in the duet-a-thon together. I think this is a wonderful story and provides lots of wonderful concepts to think about and consider applying to our own lives.

Our sermon ends back with Doc and Sprocket.

Doc has fallen asleep while attempting to tell Lucinda the plant his life story. We wakes to hear Sprocket singing, in a way only a dog can sing, and sees that Lucinda is back to her healthy planet self. He inquires how Sprocket managed to rejuvenate the plant and Sprocket continues singing.

[Doc Voice] 'You sang to her? Of course, that's the solution. You know there's something magical about music. There really is!

[close Mokeyism binder dramatically]

And without further adieu, here is this weeks sermon. Episode seventy-seven, *A Tune For Two*.