

The Little Loaf

Once, when there was a famine, a baker found 20 of the poorest children in his little town and said to them, "In this basket, there is a small loaf of bread for each of you. Take it, and come back to me every day till God sends us better times."

The hungry children gathered eagerly about the basket, and quarreled for the bread, because each wished to have the largest loaf. At last, they went away without even thanking the good man.

But Gretchen, a poorly dressed little girl, did not quarrel or struggle with the rest, but remained standing quietly in the distance. When the ill-behaved children had left, she took the smallest loaf, which alone was left in the basket, kissed the man's hand and went home.

The next day the children were as ill-behaved as before, and poor, timid Gretchen received a loaf of bread scarcely half the size of the one she got the first day. When she went home and her mother cut the loaf open, many new, shining pieces of silver fell out of it.

The mother was very much alarmed, and said, "Take the money back to the good man at once, for it must have gotten into the dough by accident. Go quickly, Gretchen, go quickly!"

But when the little girl gave the kind baker her mother's message, he said, "No, no, my child, it was no mistake. I had the silver pieces put into the smallest loaf to reward you. Always be contented, peaceable and grateful as you are now. Go home, now, and tell your mother that the silver is your own." (From McGuffey's Third Reader)

Through the Eyes of a Frog

"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2). "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way" (Psalm 119:37). As a young boy, one of my favorite pastimes was hunting frogs along the banks of a pond near our home. While stalking those green leapers, I was unaware of their unique visual powers which enabled them to elude me so easily. Later, I learned that the frog's optical field of perception is like a blackboard wiped clean, and that the only images it receives are objects that directly concern him, such as his natural enemies or the food he needs for survival. Therefore, these amphibious little creatures are never distracted by unimportant things, but are aware only of essentials and whatever may be dangerous to them.

Although such restricted eyesight would result in an unimaginable handicap to man, nevertheless a spiritual lesson can be learned from the frog's "blackboard." In the Christian life we frequently become preoccupied with the vain things of the world. We allow our lives to become so cluttered with materialistic and insignificant concerns that we lose perspective of the "things that endure." Let us ask God for help in fixing our attention on what is good and lasting. (Author Unknown)

Beatitudes For Married Couples

--Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate, and loving through all the days of their life together.

--Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.

--Blessed are the husband and wife who have a sense of humor, for this will be a handy shock absorber.

--Blessed are they who love each other more than any other person in the world, and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vow of a lifetime of fidelity as husband and wife.

--Blessed are they who thank God for their blessings, and who set aside some time each day for the reading of the Bible and prayer.
--Blessed are they who never speak harshly to each other and who make their home a place of mutual encouragement and love.
--Blessed are the husband and wife who can work out their problems without interference from relatives.
--Blessed are the husband and wife who dedicate their lives and their home to the advancement of Christ and His kingdom.

God Won't Ask

--God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
--God won't ask the square footage of your house, but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
--God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
--God won't ask about your social status; He will ask what kind of class you displayed.
--God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but He'll ask if they dictated your life.
--God won't ask what your highest salary was, but He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
--God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but He'll ask if your overtime work was for yourself or for your family.
--God won't ask how many promotions you received, but He'll ask how you promoted others.
--God won't ask what your job title was, but He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
--God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but He'll ask what you did to help others.
--God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
--God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but He'll ask what you did to protect the rights of others.
--God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
--God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character.
--God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but He'll ask how many times they didn't.
--God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, but if you've obeyed the Gospel, He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.

All I really need to know about Life, I learned from Noah's Ark

--Don't miss the boat.
--Don't forget - we're all in the same boat.
--Plan ahead - it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
--Stay fit - when you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something really big.
--Don't listen to critics; just get on with what has to be done.
--For safety's sake, travel in pairs. Two heads are better than one.
--Build your future on high ground.
--Speed isn't always an advantage. After all, the snails were on the same ark with the cheetahs.
--When you're stressed, float awhile.
--Remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
--Remember that the woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside.

--No matter what the storm, when God is with you, there's a rainbow waiting at the end.

A Moment's Wisdom

--Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

--Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.

--WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning!

--Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does.

--Wisdom has two parts: 1) Having a lot to say; 2) Not saying it.

--Don't pray for lighter burdens; pray for stronger backs.

--Prejudice is the reasoning of fools.

--No prejudice has ever been able to prove itself in the court of reason.

--Prejudice cannot see the things that are, because it is always looking for the things that are not.

--When you are thirsty, it is already too late to think about digging a well.

--Intentions that die are pretensions that lie.

--Hindsight explains the injury that foresight would have prevented.

--He that is too proud to ask is too good to receive.

--Temper gets people into trouble. Pride keeps them there.

--One of these days is none of these days.

--Some sports teams excel because they work so well together. Other teams with fantastic potential fail because they do not work together. Which is happening in your family? In your local congregation? What can you do to improve?

--People who are often in a hurry imagine they are energetic, when in most cases they are simply inefficient.