

Life's Little Lessons X

Growing Good Corn

There once was a farmer who grew award-winning corn. Each year he entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon. One year, a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors.

"How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

He was very much aware of the connectedness of life. His corn cannot improve unless his neighbor's corn also improves. So it is with our lives. Those who choose to live in peace must help their neighbors to live in peace. Those who choose to live well must help others to live well, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others to find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

The lesson for each of us is this: if we are to grow good corn, we must help our neighbors grow good corn. If we want to live in peace and pleasantness, we must help our neighbors to live in peace and pleasantness.

Man O Man!

When without money, eats wild vegetables at home;
When has money, eats the same wild vegetables in a fine restaurant;
When without money, rides bicycle;
When has money, rides the same "exercise machine."
When without money, walks to earn food;
When has money, walks to burn fat;
Man O Man! Never fails to deceive himself!

When without money, wishes to get married;
When has money, wishes to get divorced.
When without money, wife becomes secretary;
When has money, secretary becomes wife.
When without money, acts like a rich man;
When has money, acts like a poor man.
Man O Man! Never can tell the simple truth!

Says share market is bad, but keeps speculating;
Says money is evil, but keeps accumulating;
Says high positions are lonely, but keeps wanting them;
Says gambling and drinking is bad, but keeps indulging;
Man O Man! Never means what he says and never says what he means!

Discouraging Frogs

A group of frogs was traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump out of the pit with all of their might. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

There is power of life and death in the tongue. An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through the day. A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to end him or her. Be careful of what you say. Speak life to those who cross your path. The power of words, it is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times. Special is the individual who will take the time to encourage another.

Dying of Thirst in the Water

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15). Some shipwrecked men were left drifting aimlessly on the ocean in a lifeboat. As the days passed under the scorching sun, their rations of food and fresh water gave out. The men grow deliriously thirsty. One night while the others are asleep, one man ignores all previous warnings and gulps down some salt water. He quickly dies.

Ocean water contains seven times more salt than the human body can safely ingest. Drinking it, a person dehydrates because the kidneys demand extra water to flush the overload of salt. The more salt water someone drinks, the thirstier he gets. He actually dies of thirst

When we lust, we become like the man who drank the salt water. We thirst desperately for something that looks like what we want. We don't realize, however, that it is precisely the opposite of what we really need. In fact, it can kill us! (From Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching, p. 147)

Walking on the Water

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps..." (1Peter 2:21). To help enhance the experience of tourists who want to retrace Jesus' steps through the Holy Land, Israel's National Parks Authority has approved plans for a slightly submerged bridge in the Sea of Galilee at Capernaum so that visitors can 'walk on water' at the site Jesus supposedly did 2000 years ago. The bridge will not have rails, but lifeguards and rescue boats will be stationed nearby in case of accident. (From Associated Press)

We should seek to walk in the steps of Jesus by living as He did, and not by some worthless endeavor which clearly demonstrates that we don't have the power or ability to do it in the first place.

A Moments Wisdom

--He who rolls up his sleeves seldom loses his shirt.

--No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can begin today and make a new ending.

--Those who pretend to be more than they are raise an expectation they can't fulfill and so lose their credibility as soon as they are found out.

--Some people will give God anything but themselves.

--Once a Bird asked a Bee, "After a continuous hard work, you prepare the honey. But a man steals the honey. Do you not feel sad?" Then the Bee replied, "Never, because a man can only steal my honey, not the art of making honey."