

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Scripture Reading: Job 19:23-27a

Forgiveness is the greatest gift you can give yourself. —Maya Angelou

A *Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* is a 2019 movie starring Tom Hanks that tells a story about forgiveness.

It is based upon real-life events in the lives of Fred Rogers, the star of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” a half-hour educational children’s television series, and Tom Junod, a writer for *Esquire* magazine, assigned to write a story about Rogers. In the movie, the Junod character is Lloyd Vogel, and although some details in the film version differ from actual circumstances in Junod’s life, much is true to life.

As Rogers and Vogel get to know each other, Rogers learns that Vogel is estranged from his father Jerry, who had cheated on Vogel’s mother and had abandoned her when she was dying. During a wedding reception for Vogel’s sister, the two men get into a fight.

Jerry had attempted a reconciliation because he had serious heart issues, and in fact, during an altercation, he has a heart attack.

It’s a long process, but the two are reconciled.

This is a compressed version of the plot. It does not come close to explaining how hard it is to forgive and *why* it is so hard.

In the movie, Rogers explains to Vogel, “Forgiveness is a strange thing. It can sometimes be easier to forgive our enemies than our friends. It can be hardest of all to forgive people we love.” That is certainly true, yet, as Vogel discovers, it can be dangerous *not* to forgive, as novelist Isabelle Holland has noted: “As long as you don’t forgive, who and whatever it is will occupy a rent-free space in your mind.”

Yes, forgiveness is a hard road, fraught with many hurdles. But peace and reconciliation are huge rewards, and well worth the effort of putting the past in the past.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, give me the grace and selflessness to let go of resentment and past grievances. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*God's Blessings on All Saints Sunday,
Linda & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Corinthians 4-6

Monday: Nehemiah 10-13

Tuesday: Micah 1-4

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 7-9

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10-13

Friday: Acts 20-22













Saturday: Psalms 127-129

Verse to Remember

But [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

—2 Corinthians 12:9

LOGIC CHALLENGE: Can you solve this?

	+		+		=	60
	+		+		=	30
	-		-		=	3
	+		+		=	???

WRITE YOUR ANSWER HERE:

WHICH NUMBER IS THE ODD ONE OUT?

68 18 50 31 24

Answer to
LOGIC
CHALLENGE:
26.
Odd One
Out: 31. It is
the only odd
number.

