

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

There is no better cardiovascular exercise than reaching out, bending over and kneeling down, to lift someone up. —Anon.

According to a Chinese fable, an elderly Han woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be utter failure, the porous pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream. “I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.”

The old woman smiled, “Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side? Why do you suppose that is?”

The poor pot said nothing.

“It’s because I’ve always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.”

The moral of the story? Perhaps it is a reminder to accept oneself as a person made in the image of God, and second, there is no one whom God cannot bless and cannot make a blessing to others!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I am not perfect. There are plenty of persons around to remind me of this; no need for me to be among them. You love me. You have seen fit to use me for your glory. And I am pleased to be in your service, however you may need me. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Galatians 4-6

Monday: 1 Chronicles 4-6

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 7-9

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 10-13

Thursday: 1 Chronicles 14-16

Friday: 1 Chronicles 17-19

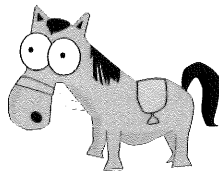
Saturday: Psalms 94-96

Verse to Remember

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

—Galatians 5:22-23

NAME THIS PONY!



RIDDLE: How much earth is there in a hole 2 yards wide by 2 yards long by 2 yards deep?

Pastor Farnsworth bought a little pony for his grandchildren, but didn't know what to name it. As he stood in the pasture thinking, he noticed all kinds of birds flying around, each giving its own special call. Then, he got an idea.

Match the bird with its call, and write the letters in order in the spaces provided to find out the two-word name of Pastor Farnsworth's horse.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| __ 1. Dove | A. hiss |
| __ 2. Crow | A. crow |
| __ 3. Rooster | E. caw |
| __ 4. Duck | G. chirp |
| __ 5. Eagle | I. cluck |
| __ 6. Owl | L. scream |
| __ 7. Sparrow | P. coo |
| __ 8. Goose | R. quack |
| __ 9. Hen | T. chatter |
| __ 10. Magpie | Y. hoot |

Pony's name:

BRAIN BAFFLERS!

The following two questions come from an actual **fourth** grade class. They are not questions of fact, but questions that ask you to look for patterns.

These are not easy. But you will be interested and amused when you read the answers. Have fun.

1. What do these words have in common?

banana
dresser
grammar
potato
revive
uneven
assess

2. What pattern do you see when you multiply 111,111,111 x 111,111,111?

ANSWERS: Riddle — None. Holes are always empty. **Brain Bafflers — Question 1:** If you take the first letter of each word listed and place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. **Question 2:** 12,345,678,987,654,321. **Name this pony:** Pearly Gait.