

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Nothing will work unless you do. —Maya Angelou

Here's a parable that has been used to scold "the younger generation" about how to succeed in life. See what you think.

A certain farmer told each of his children when they were young that there was a "secret" of life, and it was a mystery that he'd reveal when they reached their 12th birthday. "I will tell you the secret of life then," he said.

On the day that the eldest turned 12, the nervous daughter approached her father and said, "So, tell me the secret."

He said, "Fine, but you must promise not to reveal the secret to your younger brothers and sisters."

The girl promised.

He said, "The secret of life is this: *The cow does not give milk.*"

His daughter was nonplussed. "Wait. What?"

"You heard me. The cow does not give milk; you have to milk it. You have to get up at 4 in the morning, go to the field, walk through the corral full of manure, tie the tail, hobble the legs of the cow, sit on the stool, place the bucket and do the work yourself.

"This is the secret of life: the cow does not *give* milk. You *milk her or you don't get milk*. There is this generation that thinks that cows *give* milk. That things are automatic and free. The mentality of this generation is that if 'I wish, I ask ... I obtain.'

"It is used to getting whatever it wants and getting it the easy way. But no, life is not a matter of wishing, asking and obtaining. The things that one receives are the cumulative effort of what one does. Happiness is the result of effort. Lack of effort creates frustration."

The original fabulist of this story then adds the moral: "So, share with your children from a young age the secret of life, so they don't grow up with the mentality that the government, their parents, or their cute little faces are going to give them everything they need in life."

Isn't it closer to the truth to say that this lesson is not generation-specific, but that it is a valuable truth every generation learns in its own time? Our parents learned it; we learned it; our children learned it; and their children will, too.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all those who work hard every day, and who do so with a smile on their faces. Bless them, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Job 21-24
Monday: Job 25-27
Tuesday: Job 28-31
Wednesday: Job 32-34
Thursday: Job 35-37
Friday: Job 38-42
Saturday: Psalms 10-12

Verse to Remember

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God. —Job 19:25-26

Mini-Sudoku

Each of these two puzzles has four squares. By studying the numbers given, write a number between 1 and 4 in the empty boxes so that each row, column and diagonal have four different numbers, and each of the four boxes has the numbers 1 to 4.

1	2		
4	3		
			3
3		1	2

		1	
3			4
			1
1	3	4	2

VOWEL HUNT

Can you identify these New Testament books that are missing vowels?

1. JD, 2. TTS, 3. PTR, 4. JMS, 5. LK, 6. RVLTN, 7. CTS, 8. TMTH, 9. GLTNS, 10. PHLMN.

Answers to Vowel Hunt:
 1. Jude, 2. Titus, 3. Peter,
 4. James, 5. Luke,
 6. Revelation, 7. Acts,
 8. Timothy, 9. Galatians,
 10. Philemon.

Riddles to Share:

1. What month of the year has 28 days? *All of them!*
2. To what question can you never answer yes? *Are you asleep?*
3. David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son? *David.*

1	2	3	4
4	3	2	1
2	1	4	3
3	4	1	2

4	2	1	3
3	1	2	4
2	4	3	1
1	3	4	2