

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday September 30 2024 - I Peter 4: 8

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Read I Peter 4 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit" (Luke 6:43).

It has been said, "There are no little things." Often, things we regard as "little" may actually be of greater value than those things we regard as "big." Could the cup of water exist without the drop of water? Could an hour exist without thirty-six hundred seconds? And as we read in the Gospels, wondrous things can result from sharing even the tiniest crust of bread or the smallest sip of water.

A kind word in a time of need; a caring smile in a time of stress; a bit of encouragement in a time of frustration; a spark of hope in a time of despair; a gesture of understanding in a time of confusion -- summed up in this line from a beautiful poem: "In a moment these better things are gone -- but there are a hundred ripples circling on and on."

We can't judge which good and well-intentioned deeds, large or small, are genuinely worthwhile. It is not for us to judge which actions, large or small, are of enduring value in the work of building the Kingdom. As Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel Lesson, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit" (Luke 6:43).

There is an old Jewish parable about a traveler who comes upon an older man planting a carob tree.

"How long will it be before this tree bears fruit?" Honi asked.

“Seventy years,” the old man replied.

“How do you know you’ll be alive in 70 years?”

“Just as I found carob trees when I came into the world,” answered the old man, “so I am now planting carob trees for my grandchildren to enjoy.”

Here begins a wonderful idea for our upcoming Stewardship season. We are just keeping our witness alive for us today BUT we are planting for our children and their children. Planting seeds along the pathway of life trying to be found faithful as the Kingdom continues today and into all eternity.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 ESV

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

May God bless all that you plant.

In the “Son-shine” of God’s growing love,

Roger

