

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday July 21, 2025 - Hebrews 13: 5-6

**5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”**

**6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”**

Read Hebrews 13 for meditation and inspiration.

# Benjamin Franklin



Portrait by Joseph Duplessis, 1778

## What is the Value of Life?

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

Benjamin Franklin coined a proverb for the world when he told of his visit to a store at age seven to make a purchase. Franklin gave the merchant a whole fistful of coins for a child's toy whistle. He wrote, "I then came home and went whistling all over the house, much pleased with my whistle, but disturbing all the family. My brothers, sisters, and cousins, understanding the bargain I had made, told me I had given four times as much for it as it was worth. Clearly, Franklin had been cheated. And over the years, he would often look at something a friend was doing and say to himself, "That fellow paid too much for his whistle."

Don't settle for less than you are worth.

This reminds me of a story of a father and son where the father sought to teach his son the value of life by giving him a stone.

As the story goes:

One day the son asked his father, ‘What is the value of my life?’

His father gave him a stone and said, “Son, if you want to know the value of your life, take this stone to the market. If someone asks for a price, say nothing and raise two fingers.”

So the boy did as his father told him and went off to the marketplace. Soon, an old woman appeared and asked him how much the stone was. The boy said nothing and just raised two fingers. Then the woman said, “Two dollars? I’ll take it.”

The son was shocked and ran back to his father. “There was an old woman in the market. She wanted to give me two whole dollars for this stone!”

His dad responded, “Son, the next place I want you to go to is the museum and if anyone asks for a price, say nothing and raise two fingers.” Immediately, the son picked up the stone and went to the museum. After a while, there was a middle-aged man who asked the boy, “How much does this stone cost?” The boy said nothing and raised two fingers. The man said, “200 dollars? Wow! I’ll take it!”

The boy was shocked and ran home to his father. “A man in the museum wanted to buy this stone for 200 dollars!” The father replied, “Lastly, I want you to take the stone to a gemstone store. Go inside the store and if anyone asks for a price, say nothing but just raise two fingers.”

So the son ran to a jewelry store. After finding one, he went inside and there was an old man at the counter. As soon as the old man saw the stone, he became excited and shouted, “Oh my lord! This boy has the stone that I have been looking for all my life! What do you want in exchange for this stone? How much does it cost?” The boy said nothing and raised two fingers. And the old man said, “Two million dollars? I’ll take it!” The boy could not believe his ears. He rushed back to his father.

“An old man at a jewelry store wanted to give me \$2,000,000.00 for this stone!” His father replied, “Do you understand now what is the value of life? Life is about where you put yourself as you respond to your own desires or to God’s call and claim on your life. You can choose if you want to live a self-centered life to be a 2 dollar stone

or a 2,000,000 dollar stone as God's person doing the will of God filled with meaning and purpose."

Do not ever sell yourself cheaply as a two dollar stone but rather be as a million dollar pearl of great value in God's service.

In Worthy Calling,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger