

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday July 8, 2024 - Isaiah 6:8

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Read Isaiah 6 for meditation and inspiration.



MUSTARD TREE AND SEED

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Remember how Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed something like this?

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed ... it is the smallest of all seeds" (Matthew 13:31,32).

According to an old legend, a woman whose son had just died went to a mountaintop seeking counsel from a wise man. The grieving mother told him of her sorrow, then asked, "What prayers and magical incantations do you have that will bring back my son?" The sage replied, "Go back down the mountain and find a mustard seed from a home that has never known sorrow, and we will use it to drive the sorrow out of your life."

She came first to a lavish mansion. She knocked on the door, then said to the woman who answered, "I am searching for a home that has never known sorrow. It is very important to me. Is this such a home?" The woman replied, "You have certainly come to the wrong place. My husband is on his deathbed. Our son abandoned us, and I fear I will soon be left alone." Hearing this, the grief-stricken mother said, "Who is better able to help these unfortunate people than I, who have had my own misfortune?" So,

she stayed a while to comfort them. She then went on searching for a home that had never known sorrow. But in each place, whether a shack or a palace, she heard one tale after another of sadness and misfortune. And she became so involved in ministering to these people that she forgot about her search for the magical mustard seed. And as her life began to take on new meaning, she said to herself, "It is beautiful!" -

When you plant a seed, you put it in the dark, quiet ground, and nothing happens: no violins sing, trumpets blow, or drums roll. Nevertheless, the spark of life takes place often in the cold, dark, damp ground of sorrow as a person reaches out to minister to the hurt, troubled, grief-stricken, devastated and heartbroken. It is by following Jesus into the pain and suffering of the world in ministry and mission that the mercy and grace of God takes root. In the eyes of faith, yes, life is beautiful!

Blessings for your ministry,

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

Roger