

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday April 15, 2024 - Hosea 6:3

3 Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Read Hosea 6 for meditation and inspiration.



***THE EMPEROR'S CLOTHES, BE WISE –
SCAMMERS ARE EVERYWHERE***

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

According to the familiar legend of the "Emperor's Clothes," three evil men seek to exploit their ruler by offering to create a magnificent robe for him for a very high price. The Emperor goes along with the proposition, and the three men pretend to be sewing up the great garment. Then they announce that the garment is finished and proceed to go through the motions of putting the phantom robe on the Monarch. "Surely you can see what fine clothing this is," one of them says. "Only a fool could

not see it so!" The mesmerized ruler is convinced that this is indeed the finest robe in the Empire. Soon, all the people in the kingdom are convinced that he is wearing the most beautiful robe ever made and that only a fool would not agree. Finally, the Emperor goes out among his people in a grand procession. Although he is completely naked, the people cheer, and they marvel at the beauty of the non-existent garment. However, there is one exception – a young boy who, in his innocence, is unaffected by the people's departure from reality. Seeing things as they are, the boy shouts out for all to hear, "Look! The Emperor has no clothes on!" After which all the people feel like complete fools — including their Monarch.

People today are always susceptible to a con-job, scammers are always out there ready to “give” you computer assistance, or help you receive thousands of dollars in government pay out or corporate winnings, sell you new insurance or help you “unfreeze your bank account” or keep you from being prosecuted by the IRS or Social Security. The list of hoaxes is many and growing. There is the one where a friend or relative is trapped with no money or ID (stolen) in a foreign country and need a loan immediately for shelter and food. But we all know that the emperor has no clothes and we refuse to fall for another scam! Even in religion silly come-ons are at work.

Jesus tells us to be good stewards and to be as innocent as doves but as wise as serpents. Our gifts and resources are given to us by God who calls us to use them wisely and participate in the building of the Kingdom of God and act as God’s children/agents on this earth.

So be wise, be responsible and invest in God’s Kingdom where the return is eternal,
For the Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Roger