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**Verse of the day for Monday August 7 2023 – Psalm 103: 12**

12 **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

**Read Psalm 103 for meditation and inspiration.**



***FORGIVE AS YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN***

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Ambrose of Milan became the Bishop of Milan more by the desire of the general church members that by any Papal decree. He was popular as a scholar and mediator in the church. So, let me begin with the words of Saint Ambrose: "No one heals himself by wounding another."

Echoing these words is a beautiful legend about three men who set out on a journey. Each carried two sacks around his neck -- one in front and one in back. The first man was asked what was in his bags. "In this one on my back," he said, "I carry all the kind deeds of my friends. In that way, they are out of sight and out of mind, and I don't have to do anything about them. They're soon forgotten. This sack in front carries all the unkind things people do to me. I pause in my journey every day to take them out and air them, lest I forget them. It slows me down, but nobody gets away with anything."

The second man was asked what was in his sacks. "In this one on my back, I keep all my bad deeds. I keep them behind me, out of my view. This sack in front carries my good deeds. I constantly keep them before me. I pause in my journey every day to take them out and air them, lest I forget them. It slows me down, but I take great pleasure in them."

The third man was asked what was in his sacks. "I carry my friends' kind deeds in this front sack," he said. "It looks full, but it is not heavy. Far from slowing me down, it is like the sails of a ship. It helps me move ahead. The sack on my back has a hole in the bottom. That's where I put all the evil I hear from others. It just falls out and is lost, so I have no burden to impede me."

GUESS WHO FINISHED FIRST?

Colossians 3:13 states, “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

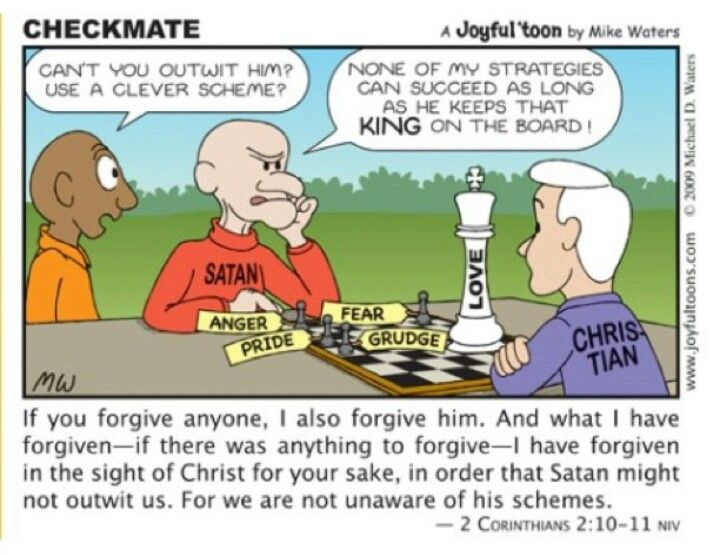
In God’s forgiving love,

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Cartoon of a person talking to a person

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A cartoon of a person carrying a bunch of bags

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