



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
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David's Devotional What Sticks In Our Craw?

A rooster was once strutting about the yard among the other farm animals. Suddenly he spied something shining in some straw. He ran over to the item, hoping for something to eat. Scratching anxiously at the straw, he uncovered a pearl of great value! As the rooster turned and walked away he thought to himself, "You may be a treasure to some, but as for me I would rather have a kernel of corn!"

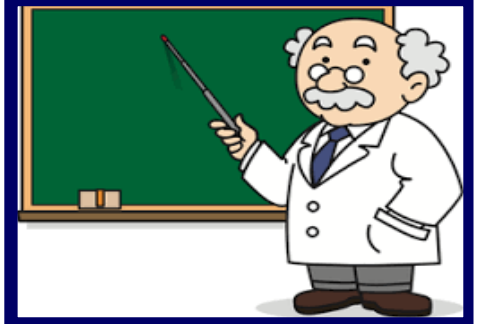
Jesus told this parable, "... the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." **Matthew 13:45-46**

The rooster was looking for whatever he could stick in his craw. The merchant man was looking for "goodly pearls". Naturally, when they both found "a pearl of great price", the rooster was disappointed and the merchant man sacrificed everything to obtain it!

The Church of Jesus Christ is the "pearl of great price". If we are looking for something valuable and worthwhile, we will sacrifice everything to be a part of it! If we are only looking for whatever fills our immediate needs, we will be disappointed and walk away from it!

Too many people today are walking away from this treasure because they refuse to see its value! Be sure to keep our eyes open to its great worth!

Let the Kingdom of Heaven stick in our craw; in a good way! :) *David Conley*



An Interesting Quote:

"Thinking we have little to learn from others is perhaps the most deadly of distractions to listening." **John Maxwell**

"... hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." **Matthew 13:13**

Have you ever been talking with someone and suddenly realize they haven't heard a word you said?

Sure they "heard" it because the sound went into their ears, but they were not "listening"! John Maxwell's quote suggests they may feel we have nothing to contribute to them, so they simply "turn us off". Perhaps they are just thinking about what they want to say next and are waiting on us to pause so they can tell us what they think we need to know! Jesus knew there would be people like that. They hear, but the don't hear or understand! Let's learn to listen. **David Conley**

Did You Know?

Benjamin Franklin & DST

Daylight Savings Time was first observed in America in 1918 to save energy especially during War Time, but in 1784 Benjamin Franklin wrote a humorous essay suggesting to save candles by changing the time! His conclusion: "... have lived so long by the smoky, unwholesome, and enormously expensive light of candles, if they had really known, that they might have had as much pure light of the sun for nothing." He thought of a lot of things! Use DST right; turn off the light!

What Happened?

THREE of my favorite girls had Birthdays in February!

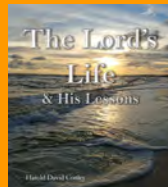
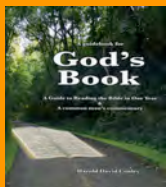
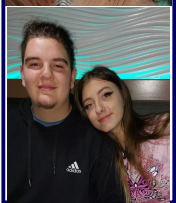
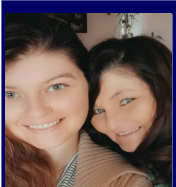
Madison - 18th - Granddaughter

Kayla - 20th - Daughter

Debra - 26th - Wife

These are their birth dates, not their ages! (*Madison's is close*) I believe they all had a "Happy Birthday"!

BTW - That is Christian in the photo with Madison. I think she really likes him! (*Can't believe we are that old!*)



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"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Betty Tried!

We were finishing lunch in the lunch room at Rhodesville School. Betty saw my desperation.

I had to get to the bathroom ASAP! Unfortunately, the bathroom was quite a distance away and I still had to empty my food tray. Betty offered to empty my tray for me to allow more time to make it to the facility. There was no way I was going to allow a girl to help me! I quickly calculated my odds. It would be close, but I knew I could make it without her! As I began emptying my tray, I also emptied my bladder! You have not been humbled until you are sitting in the first grade classroom in front of a radiator heater trying to dry your corduroy pants with fifth grade girls in the room!

(Did you know that corduroy takes longer to dry than any fabric in the known universe; or so it seemed!)

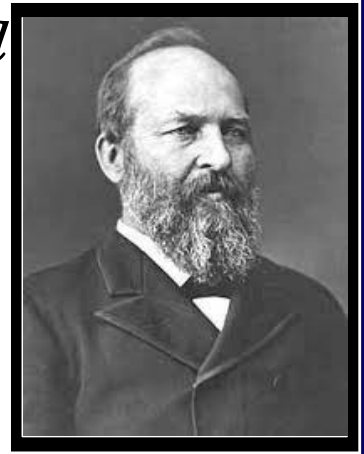
God said in **Proverbs 16:18** *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."*

If we refuse to humble ourselves, we will soon have ourselves humbled!

Let people help us!

David Conley

James A. Garfield



20th President of the United States. He was a Christian and served as an elder in the Church. He said, *"I resign the highest office in the land to become President of the United States."*

Listed below are some "rules" he lived by:

- Make few promises.
- Always speak the truth.
- Live within your income.
- Never speak evil of anyone.
- Keep good company or none.
- Never play games of chance.
- Drink no intoxicating drinks.
- Good character is above everything else.
- Keep your own secrets if you have any.
- Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it.
- Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.
- Keep yourself honest if you would be happy.
- When you speak to a person, look into his eyes.
- Make not haste to be rich, if you would prosper.
- Save when young to spend when you are old.
- Never run into debt, unless you see a way out again.
- Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtues.
- Your character cannot be badly hurt except by your own vices.
- If anybody speaks evil of you, live your life so that no one will believe it.
- Never be idle. If your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of your mind.

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Would we do well to follow the wise counsel of this shepherd?

David Conley

A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher visited a lady in the nursing home. She was sweet and very interesting to talk with. During the conversation, the preacher found a bowl of peanuts beside her bed and helped himself to a few. Soon, before he realized it, he had eaten the entire bowl of peanuts!

"I am so sorry", the preacher apologized, "I have eaten all of your peanuts!"
"That's ok", the elderly lady replied, "I don't like peanuts, I just suck the chocolate off."

The preacher recalled **Proverbs 23:1** *"When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:"*