

## St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 5 September 2021

The Des Moines Tribune (December 5 1968) reported an amazing event that occurred in South Africa. Two businessmen, Mr Rumbold, and his colleague, Mr Samuel, hung their coats over chairs while they had lunch in Lusaka. Afterward, Mr Rumbold missed his wallet which contained cash and coupons for gasoline.

Three days later, while driving back to Johannesburg, a middle-aged African waved them down. 'Are you going to Johannesburg?' he asked. When they replied in the affirmative, the African took a wallet from his pocket and said, 'Would you please try and find a Mr Rumbold there and give him this wallet? I found it in the street three days ago.'

Rumbold was speechless. Showing the African his identification, he examined the wallet. Nothing was missing. The poor, humble man refused a reward, saying, 'No sir. I do not need a reward for not stealing. I am a Christian.'

This is a most beautiful story. On the one hand, the odds of this happening at all are beyond belief, but what makes it truly beautiful is the African's response. His take on the circumstances is a lesson for us all. His reply carries more weight and meaning than a whole sermon!

**'Good people are guided by their honesty, treacherous people are destroyed by their dishonesty.'** Proverbs 11:3

**'Nothing is more beautiful than honesty.'** Steven Aitchison

### **Lockdown**

So much has been written on the subject of dealing with the stress of lockdown by people more qualified than me, but I would like to expand a little on what I wrote last week.

There are many negatives we could come up with in regard to lockdown. However, we are stuck with it so rather than dwell on those, I am sure you can come up with a couple of positive aspects. Focus on those! It is all about attitude. We might not be able to control the existence of lockdown but we can control our attitude. How we feel is a direct consequence of attitude.

We all know that helping others leads to a feeling of self-worth and well-being for both the receiver and the giver. One thing we can all do is get on that phone. Phone calls can be a God-send in these particular circumstances. We should all have a goal of ringing at least two people each day for the sole purpose of providing support. The benefit will be mutual.

### **More Observations of God from an 8-year-old**

One of God's important jobs is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and others, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

### Time for a Smile

'I just took the wife to the West Indies.' 'Jamaica?' 'No, she came of her own accord.'

'I am taking the wife to northern Italy this year.' 'Genoa?' 'I should think so. We've been married for twenty years.'

### Christmas Cake

Rhys Bean has been putting her lockdown to good use. Something for us all to look forward to after our Carol service! Thank you, Rhys.



### To Ponder

'Love cures people, both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it.' Anon.



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