

Thought for the Day

December 5 - 9, 2011

December 5, 2011

*T*HEIR EARS WERE SAVED

A Japanese legend says that a pious Buddhist monk died and went to heaven. He was taken on a sight-seeing tour of his new home. Everything was beautiful, just as he had imagined, until he and his guide came to a large room that looked like a merchant's shop. Lining the walls were shelves on which were piled and labeled what looked like mushrooms. On closer examination he saw that these objects were actually human ears. The guide explained that these were the ears of people who on earth went diligently to the temple, listened with pleasure to the teaching, yet did nothing about what they had heard. So, after death their ears were saved, but they themselves went elsewhere.

Jesus expressed this principle as follows: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matt. 7:24)

December 6, 2011

*P*ATHS THAT LEAD NOWHERE

There is a Hassidic story about a man who went for a walk in the forest and got lost. He wandered around for hours, unable to find his way back to town. He followed one dead-end path after another. Finally he met another man walking in the forest. He cried out, “Thank goodness for another human being! Can you show me the way back to town?” The other man replied, “No, I’m lost too. But we can help each other in this way. We can tell each other which paths we have already tried and been disappointed in. That will help us find the right path.”

In so doing, these men were putting into practice an admonition from St. Paul: “Bear each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Gal. 6:2)

December 7, 2011

*T*HE BEST INHERITANCE

The great Revolutionary patriot Patrick Henry is most noted for having said, “Give me liberty or give me death.” But perhaps his wisest statement was his very last one. It came at the end of his last will and testament. He wrote, “I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian faith. If they have that, and I had not given

them one penny, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, then even if I had given them all the world, they would be poor.”

Jesus asked: “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” (Matt. 16:26)

December 8, 2011

WOULD YOU LOVE HIM?

Some years ago Billy Graham was interviewed by Hugh Downs on the 20/20 television program. The conversation turned to the subject of homosexuality. Downs asked Graham, “If you had a homosexual child, would you love him?” Without hesitation Graham replied gently, “Why I would love that one even more.”

So like the love of God! God always loves that child most who faces the greatest difficulties.

December 9, 2011

MAYBE THE HORSE WILL FLY!

Bernard Baruch, the famous financier and advisor to presidents, once told a story about a Middle-Eastern man who was sentenced to death. However, he obtained a reprieve by assuring the king that he would teach his majesty’s horse to fly within the year. The king agreed, but he warned the man that if he didn’t

succeed, he would be put to death at the end of the year. One of the man's cellmates ridiculed him, saying, "You cannot possibly teach a horse to fly." The condemned man responded, "Consider this—within a year the king may die, or I may die, or the horse may die. Furthermore, in a year, who knows? Maybe the horse will fly."

Perhaps the condemned man had read this advice from Jesus: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6:34)