

# Thought for the Day

February 20 -24, 2012

February 20, 2012

## *S*CORE ONE FOR ATTITUDE

Curt Knight, kicker for the Washington Redskins, once had the highest field goal percentage in the National Football League. But then the Redskins changed coaches. Soon thereafter the Redskins were in a tight game, late in the fourth quarter. All they needed was a field goal to win. But on fourth down at the opponents' 35-yard line, the coach called for a pass. The pass failed and the Redskins lost. After the game the coach was asked why he hadn't attempted the field goal. He replied, "I didn't think our kicker could make it." From that time on, Curt Knight's success rate declined.

Each of us is either stimulated or discouraged by other people, especially by those who are most important in our lives. Each day our attitude toward others either raises or lowers their capabilities.

February 21, 2012

## *B*LESSED ARE THE FORGETFUL

Reverend James Moore of Houston tells about an elderly man who spoke at a banquet. With a broad grin and a twinkle in his eye, the man said, "I

know I'm old because there are three things I can't remember: I can't remember names, I can't remember faces, and I can't remember the third thing I can't remember."

Forgetfulness is not all bad. Without it the pain of our failures and losses would be almost unbearable. Here are some things we need to forget: to tell someone 'I told you so'; the excuses for our failures; the sins that have been confessed and forgiven; past failures whose lessons have been learned; all jokes that put down other people; and the times we have been neglected or mistreated.

Life is so much happier when we forget what we should.

February 22, 2012

## *A* ENCOURAGING WORD

A woman named Nancy heard a friend refer to her physician as "a fine Christian gentleman." Soon thereafter Nancy had an appointment with that doctor. She passed along to him the compliment she had heard. He hardly seemed to notice. But a week later she received the following handwritten note from him. "Dear Nancy, the last time you were in the office you did a wonderful, encouraging thing for me. I was down at the time and you really lifted my spirit. You passed along a kind compliment. I

know I fail many times, but that compliment inspired me to keep on trying. Thanks, Your Physician.”

Every day we interact with many people. Some are dejected, discouraged, or in despair. A kind, affirming word can make someone’s day, maybe even save a life.

February 23, 2012

## *B*REAKING THE CYCLE

Abraham Lincoln had a gift for transforming his enemies into friends. For example, an influential Chicago man named J. S. Moulton was a harsh critic of Lincoln during his campaign for the presidency. After Lincoln’s victory, a reception was held in his honor at a Chicago hotel. Lincoln spied Moulton making his obligatory trip through the receiving line. Lincoln called out to him, “Mr. Moulton, you don’t belong there in the receiving line. Come and stand here by me.” Moulton became one of Lincoln’s most loyal supporters.

Some people make lists of their enemies and plot ways to get them back. That just continues the cycle of animosity, poisoning everybody with resentment. But when one dares to return good for evil, the poison of resentment is shut off, and beautiful relationships are born.

February 24, 2012

## *B*EAUTIFUL WRINKLES

A 7-year old girl was sitting on her grandmother's lap. As the little girl moved her hand across the older woman's face, Grandma said, "Those are my wrinkles. They mean that I'm getting older." The little girl looked up and asked, "Grandma, do wrinkles hurt?"

The child was asking not just about the wrinkles but what is it like to get older.

It's a matter of faith and attitude. Some of the happiest people I know are over 65. They age gracefully, accepting the trade-offs. They keep growing, stretching their minds, trying new things. And they have a faith that tells them that something wonderful will be on the other side of death.

Do you have any wrinkles yet? If your head and heart are right, your wrinkles will be fine.