



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

17 September 2023

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Mouse Trap

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house - like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.continued

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient (Chicken). But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.



The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness. So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember, when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry.

~ unknown

Meg's Musings

I got an invitation this morning via email. It was from a chocolate company, inviting me to enter a competition - the 3 prizes are being offered are an assortment of chocolate bars. I happily entered the competition. However, many of the emails and phone-calls which I receive aren't offering anything. They are scams. They are traps to lure us into providing information which can then be used against us. How different to God - who offers to communicate with us 24 hours a day. God set no traps, holds no competitions. All that God wants is for us to take up his offer to talk with him, and listen to him.

It's the best offer we will ever receive!

Blessings from Meg





IN OUR PRAYERS

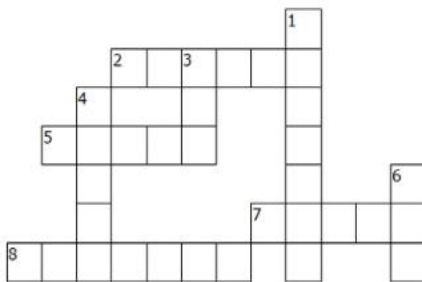


- We give thanks for the people we love.
- We pray for Mavis Chaffey. She is in hospital , and making good progress after a hip operation.
- We pray for Judy Lennon who is slowly recovering after a stay in hospital.
- We pray for for Jan Parker as she continues to make progress after her knee surgery.
- We pray for Beth Scorgie - unwell with shingles.
- We give thanks for the staff at Tamworth Base and Tamara hospitals.

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 18:21-22



ACROSS

- 2. A statement given in reply to a question
- 5. The number that is equal to six plus one
- 7. The Son of God
- 8. To pardon someone for doing something wrong

DOWN

- 1. A male with the same parents as someone else
- 3. To break God's law
- 4. A fisherman who became one of Jesus' disciples
- 6. To seek an answer to a question

Every morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most. ~ Buddhist mantra

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4th Sunday of the month ~ Markets @ Hallsville



PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**



Elders: Margaret Crowell Daryl Lush

Mathew 18:21-35 (NLT)

Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!

²³ "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.

²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.

²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

²⁶ "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.'

²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸ "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded.

³⁰ But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

³¹ "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.

³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?'

³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus