

Reign of Christ Sunday, November 20, 2022

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Thanksgiving to be truly thanksgiving is first “thanks,” then “giving.” –Anon.

Sue Bender, in her book *Everyday Sacred* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1995), describes how she began to develop an attitude of gratitude. It had, she says, something to do with an exploding turkey.

She and her husband (who were in their 60s at the time) decided to draw up a will and living trust. They paid a visit to their lawyer.

The attorney, whose speciality was estate planning, wills and trusts, asked them a goofy question about exploding turkeys. He asked Bender and her husband what might happen in the case of an exploding turkey.

Bender was nonplussed by the question and so the lawyer went on to explain. If you were to sit down for a Thanksgiving dinner, he said, what might happen if the turkey sitting there on the platter waiting to be carved suddenly exploded killing all of you? Who would you want to have your possessions?

It was an interesting question. It forced Bender and her husband to think about the people and family members in their lives. It was a wakeup call to be consciously grateful and to express that gratitude more intentionally than ever.

She decided to create a gratitude list, and every day going forward, she would ask herself one question: Who or what do I have to be thankful for today?

It is an excellent practice, and one that I have taken up in my own daily, spiritual practices.

How would you answer the question? *Who or what do I have to be thankful for today?*

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord God, I have a memory problem. I forget my blessings. I forget to give thanks for the good people and the good things in my life. Please heal my faulty and broken memory! And may I never lose sight of all the reasons I have to be thankful. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Hebrews 1-4

Monday: Hebrews 5-7

Tuesday: Hebrews 8-10

Wednesday: Hebrews 11-13

Thursday: Philemon; 1 Peter 1-2

Friday: 1 Peter 3-5

Saturday: Psalms 133-135

PROVERBIAL ANIMALS

Many expressions in our language use animals as metaphors. Consider, for example, "Wise as an owl," or "To take the bull by the horns." Below are more of these expressions. Unscramble the words to find the animals in the proverbs.

PAE _____

1. To go _____ over something.

EBRAEV _____

2. An eager _____.

RDIB _____

3. To sing like a _____.

GOD _____

4. To be in the _____ house.

FOWL _____

5. To be a _____ in sheep's clothing.

RUYTEK _____

6. To talk _____.

RUILQSER _____

7. To _____ away your money.

SMUPOS _____

8. To play _____ (pretend to be dead).

LEMU _____

9. Stubborn as a _____.

NOLI _____

10. _____-hearted.

RIDDLE

I am weightless and can be seen. When I am put in a barrel, I make it lighter.

What am I?

(Answer to the right)

Answers to Proverbial Animals:

1. ape, 2. beaver, 3. bird, 4. dog, 5. wolf, 6. turkey, 7. squirrel, 8. possum, 9. mule, 10. lion.

Solution to Riddle:

A hole.

