

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. — Theodore Roosevelt

I was born on the southern plains of Saskatchewan, but also lived in Minnesota and Colorado. What do these locales have in common? They get a ton of snow in January and all of the winter months. No wonder I have numerous memories of walking through deep snow with a parent or friends.

Did you ever do that — walk through deep snow?

Perhaps you learned quickly that there is a simple solution to the problem of pushing through knee-deep snow: *you place your feet into the steps of the person ahead of you!* Of course! Why go to all the trouble of creating a new path, when you can walk in the impressions already left by others?

Only a few weeks ago we were singing Christmas carols, one of which might have been “Good King Wenceslas.” The carol relates the story of the medieval Bohemian King Wenceslas. On a cold and snowy night, according to online sources, the good King Wenceslas is enjoying the Feast of Saint Stephen. He looks out over his land, illuminated by moonlight, and notices a poor man gathering firewood for his home. He asks a page if he knows who the man is. The page responds that the man lives a long distance from here at the base of a mountain.

King Wenceslas immediately wishes to share the warmth of his own home and the food of the holiday with him. He orders the servants of his household to bring him food and firewood, that he may bring them into the poor man’s home. Thus begins the king’s journey of goodwill through the wintery night with one of his servants. Off they go together, carrying a heavy load and trudging through heavy snowfall and cold wind.

The page soon tells the king, “Sire, I cannot go any further.” Good King Wenceslas, replies, “Mark my footsteps, good my page. / Tread thou in them boldly. / Thou shalt find the winter’s rage / freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In today’s Bible reading, Jesus calls his disciples. “Follow me,” he says.

What he means is, “Follow in my footsteps. Tread thou in them boldly.”

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O Lord, you have called me to be one of your followers. But too often I struggle. Now I realize I too easily forget the first rule of discipleship: “Follow the Leader.” Amen. Blessings,

Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Job 1-4
- Monday:** Job 5-7
- Tuesday:** Job 8-10
- Wednesday:** Job 11-13
- Thursday:** Job 14-17
- Friday:** Job 18-20
- Saturday:** Psalms 7-9

PALINDROME PUZZLE

Directions: A *palindrome* is a word that reads the same backward or forward, like *radar*, *sis*, *Bob* or *racecar*. But here are short sentences with the words mixed up. Rearrange **the words** so that the sentence is the same spelled forward or backward. Write your answer on the line provided.

has ham Ma a

was Sue I Euston saw not

What well-known expression do you see here?

litttlelitttle

latelate

Answer: Too little, too late.

Answer: Ma has a ham; Euston saw I was not Sue.

UNSCRAMBLE THE MINOR PROPHETS

Our readings this week take us into the Minor Prophets, so called because most of them are short books. The list below contains all 12 of the Minor Prophets.

Unscramble their names to discover their identities!

OJEL _____	AZAEHINPH _____ O	MCIAH _____
NJHAO _____ O	ABKUKKAH _____ O	AGIAGH _____ O
DHAIABO _____ O	OASM _____ O	MUNAH _____
AHRIZAHCE _____	OAESH _____ O O	IHCMALA _____

Unscramble the circled letters to reveal the secret word (the first letter is provided).

K _____

Answer key to UNSCramble: Joel, Zephaniah, Micah, Jonah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Obadiah, Amos, Nahum, Zechariah, Hosea, Malachi. Secret word: KINDNESS.