

Sunday, June 18, 2023

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us. —Saint Augustine

The story is told of a little boy who had been invited to a friend's birthday party. He was so excited and started counting the days until the party on a cold weekend in January. A clown was going to perform and do magic tricks. They would play games, and there'd be ice cream and cake!

But the morning of the party, the lad was devastated to wake up amid a category 3 snowstorm. A blizzard had struck their little town. The snow was falling in heavy flakes, and the wind was blowing it every which way. "I don't think you should go to the party," his father said. To say that the kid was disappointed is to utter a huge understatement.

So the child began to do what he best knew how to do: beg! He pleaded with his dad to let him go to the party. "It's only two blocks away, I have a warm parka, I know the way. Please let me go!"

There was no question of using the car. The roads were not plowed, the snow was deep, and in those days, you couldn't be sure the car would even start! He phoned the birthday boy's father. Yes, he said, they were going ahead with the party, because this was the only day they could have it.

So, when his son begged him for permission to attend, he relented, and much to the boy's surprise, he said, "All right, you can go to the party." The little boy bundled up in his hat, coat and mittens and started down the street through knee-deep snow to his friend's house. Snow was still thick, and the air was freezing.

When he got to the destination, his friend opened the door. But as the lad entered, he happened to glance back. He saw the faint form of his father, who now was turning to walk back home. It was then he realized that *his father had been walking behind him all the way to make sure he was safe.*

There may be times when we feel like we are alone, but in truth we are always surrounded by the love and goodness of God. There is never a time when we are truly on our own. Even when we do not believe him as we should, "he remains faithful" (2 Timothy 2:13). —Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Thank you, heavenly father, for remaining faithful to me in all of life's storms. Amen.

*Happy Father's Day!
Love & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** John 18-21
- Monday:** Isaiah 10-12
- Tuesday:** Isaiah 13-15
- Wednesday:** Isaiah 16-18
- Thursday:** Isaiah 19-21
- Friday:** Isaiah 22-24
- Saturday:** Psalms 67-69

Verse to Remember

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

—Psalm 32:1

4-LETTER CITIES

If you live in Rome or Lima, you probably do not live in Italy or Peru. You live, instead, in a city in the United States. Below you will find a list of 15 cities and states. All of them are scrambled. Unscramble the words, and then write the correct pairs in the spaces provided. We have done one for you.

ELOK	AHSTSETSUMSCA	CITY/ STATE	CITY/ STATE
EREI	ZARNOIA	1. Elko, Nevada 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15.	
YGRA	IWIHAA		
ALMI	IGORAEG		
IOLH	WEN OKRY		
NKOA	ANEVDA		
NNYL	AEYIVSNNNPLA		
EASM	NRAAKEBS		
NORE	IADIANN		
RPEU	IOOH		
EORM	AAHIWI		
TORY	ADVENA		
KOYR	AIONRAZ		
WOAC	SILLNIOI		
YUAM	ATSXE		

FOUR LETTER CITIES: Elko, Nevada; Erie, Pennsylvania; Gary, Indiana; Lima, Ohio; Hilo, Hawaii; Kona, Hawaii; Lynn, Massachusetts; Mesa, Arizona; Reno, Nevada; Peru, Illinois; Rome, Georgia; Troy, New York; York, Nebraska; Waco, Texas; Yuma, Arizona.



“Funny, pAtient, sTrong, Hero, rEliable, provideR”