



Daily Reflections

September 18, 2020

Scripture

Luke 8:1-3

Jesus journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

Our Scripture Reflection

Only Luke adds women to the list of companions who travel with Him as He proclaims the Kingdom of God. He pictures Jesus as the Savior on a universal mission. All people are called to His offer of salvation.

Food for your Journey

Four monkeys were put into a room. In the center of the room was a tall pole with a bunch of bananas suspended from the top. One particularly hungry monkey eagerly scrambled up the pole, intent on retrieving a banana.

Just as he reached to grasp the banana, however, he was hit with a torrent of cold water from an overhead shower nozzle. With a squeal, the monkey abandoned its quest and retreated down the pole. Each monkey attempted, in turn, to secure a banana. Each received an equally chilly shower, and each scampered down without the prize. After repeated dousings, the monkeys finally gave up on the bananas.

With the primates thus conditioned, one of the original four was removed from the experiment and a new monkey added. As soon as this new, innocent monkey started up the pole for the bananas, his (or her) companions reached up and yanked the surprised creature back down the pole.

The monkey got the message: “Don’t climb the pole.”

After a few such aborted attempts, but without ever getting a cold shower, the new monkey stopped trying to get the bananas.

One by one, each of the original monkeys was replaced. Each new monkey learned the same lesson: Don’t climb the pole. None of the new monkeys ever made it to the top of the pole; none even got as much as a cold shower. Not one monkey understood precisely why pole climbing was discouraged, but they all respected the well-established precedent. Even after the shower was removed, no monkey ventured up the pole.

I call this banana thinking. There are many principles of banana thinking. Here are a few of the important ones:

We’ve never done it that way before.

Nobody has done it that way before.

It has been done before.

It didn’t work then; it won’t work now.

It should be referred to committee.

I need to get some sleep on it first.

The boss will never go for it.

You’re right, but ...

It’s too radical.

I’m too old for this.

The janitor says it can’t be done.

If it’s not broke ...

If you’d suggested that last month, I’d say ...

Not my problem.

Not my job.

We have a policy against that.

—Timothy F. Merrill, *Learning to Fall: A Guide for the Spiritually Clumsy*, 2016. Amazon Kindle Loc. 2921.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You responded to Your Father’s call to bring the Kingdom of God to earth and You did so full throttle. Help me to serve You in the same manner and with joy and hope. Amen