



Monday Matters

November 3, 2014



What is the best way to turn a wild horse into a good riding animal? In the 1800's ranchers would round up thousands of wild horses for their cowboys and cattle drives. One method that proved to be successful was to harness the wild horse to a little burro. It created an unusual sight when they were released into the desert range. The horse hated it and would buck, snort and pull the little burro all over the place. The wild horse would try everything to get rid of the burro who was the target of its rebellion. After days of thrashing around in the desert the horse would become exhausted. At the same time the quiet, patient, slow, unobtrusive little burro became the leader.

A couple of weeks ago I took our car in to our mechanic for new brakes. I waited in the small reception area sitting on the old couch, the only place to sit. Tom, the owner of this auto repair shop, had his ten year old grandson with him as it was a holiday for the schools. Kids at that age generally tend to be very active, wanting to play and sometimes causing trouble instead of helping some adult or accepting instruction.



Lead Me to That Rock

I watched as the young boy would tag along with Tom, carrying boxes, signing for deliveries, and helping with anything he could do. The grandson was always asking questions. Tom would patiently answer each question. The boy wondered out loud why Tom would tell customers what they needed and what they could get by with not doing to their car. He explained to him that it would save the customer money and he didn't want to deceive them just to make an extra buck.

That day Tom was teaching his grandson about cars, ethics and life. Tom told me later how he and his wife of 30 years had raised their two children to be respectful and considerate. Now the children were doing the same to their children.

As I sat there I was thinking about the verse in Proverbs 22 that says, "Point your kids in the right direction - when they are old they won't be lost." (MSG). That little burro was truly a leader and trainer of the horse. He patiently and calmly took his time and the wild horse finally stopped bucking and snorting and became a good riding horse forever. Tom spent time and raised his children and grandchildren in a manner that would make them into good, productive citizens for a lifetime.



Part of verse 16 in John chapter 15 says: "I have set you apart for the work of bringing in fruit. Your fruit should last." (NLV). Whether we are raising our children, working with children in church or just being around people of any age, we are to bear fruit. If we are in Christ, doing His work, that fruit will not spoil.

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." ~C.T. Studd~

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