

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday November 4, 2024 - John 16: 33

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Read John 16 for meditation and inspiration.



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field" (Matthew 13:44).

In the Legend of the Golden Windows, a young boy works hard all day on the family farm, tending to the cows. And each evening at sunset, when the workday was through, the boy had an hour to himself before the evening meal. When the time came, the boy would go up to the top of a nearby hill and look across the valley to a house with windows that shone like gold and diamonds. One day, the boy's father told him, "You have been a good son, always working hard; take this day for your own and try to learn something good."

So, the boy set out for the house with the golden windows. After a long journey, he came to the distant hill and the place he was looking for. And to his bitter disappointment, he could see the windows were only clear glass with no gold or diamonds. A kindly woman came to the door and asked him to come in and rest.

Inside there was a little girl who was barefooted like himself, and the boy asked her about the golden windows. The little girl nodded, and said she knew all about them, only

he had mistaken the house. “You have come quite the wrong way!” she said. “Come with me, and I will show you the house with the golden windows, and then you will see for yourself.”

They went to a knoll that rose behind the farmhouse, and as they went the little girl told him that the golden windows could only be seen at a certain hour, about sunset.

“Yes, I know that!” said the boy.

When they reached the top of the knoll, the girl turned and pointed; and there on a hill far away stood a house with windows of clear gold and diamond, just as he had seen them. And when they looked again, the boy saw that it was his own home.

The way home was long, and it was dark before the boy reached his father’s house; but the lamplight and firelight shone through the windows, making them almost as bright as he had seen them from the hilltop; and when he opened the door, his mother came to kiss him, and his little sister ran to throw her arms about his neck, and his father looked up and smiled from his seat by the fire.

“Have you had a good day?” asked his mother.

“Yes,” the boy had had a very good day.

“And have you learned anything?” asked his father.

“Yes!” said the boy. “I have learned that our house has windows of gold and diamonds.”

The Treasure of the Kingdom is with you and within you all the time. Won’t you look today?

For the Kingdom that is yours by God’s Grace,

Roger

