

HomeTouch

is a weekly ministry of
Orange Coast Church



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, August 10, 2008

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

TODAY'S THOUGHT: *When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.* —Abraham Joshua Heschel

If you live in the southern climates of the United States, you may have palm trees in your city, or perhaps even near your home or on your street. Palm trees grow in places that are warm and have a lot of sunshine. Palm trees often grow close to water. So they lead a pretty comfortable life.

That's why the motto on the crest of one of the old Scottish martyrs is so interesting: *Sub pondere cresco* ("I grow under a weight"). On the crest is a palm tree with weights hanging from its fronds. In spite of the weights, or perhaps because of them, the tree is straight as an arrow, lifting its crown of foliage into the air. The fact is, that the palm tree grows best when loaded with weights.

In today's reading above, you can read about a "palm tree." Actually, it's the story of Joseph, whose life started out comfortably as the favorite of his father, Jacob. But soon, weights were attached to the "fronds" of his life. His brothers conspired to kill him. He was thrown into a well and left to die. He was traded to a caravan of merchants. He was taken to a foreign land. He was falsely accused. He was thrown into prison. That's a lot of weight.

Yet, in due time, Joseph was exalted, growing tall, straight and true. Like this beautiful tree of the tropics, Christians, too, grow in nobleness and character and sweetness of spirit with just the right amount of "weight" to keep us straight and true.

Prayer: *Loving God, thank You for the "weights" that help me to become straight and true. Remember today those who struggle, those who despair, and give them hope. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

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ACTIVITY PAGE for the week of August 10, 2008

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 1-2

Monday: Jeremiah 9-12

Tuesday: Jeremiah 13-16

Wednesday: Jeremiah 17-20

Thursday: Jeremiah 21-23

Friday: Jeremiah 24-26

Saturday: Psalms 85-87

QUESTIONS

Question 1

What is it that was given to you, that still belongs to you, that you have never lent to anyone, but that is used by all the people you know?

Question 2

Can you write 5 odd figures that add up to make a total of 14? (Be careful! This is tricky.)



MATCHING

These pairs of words all come from stories in the gospel of John. Draw a line connecting the words which *best belong together*.

ANDREW

WINE

DOVE

SIMON PETER

ELIJAH

JESUS

FATHER

CANA

JOHN

SON

LIGHT

MONEY CHANGERS

PHARISEE

NICODEMUS

PHILIP

NATHANIEL

RABBI

DARKNESS

TEMPLE

TEACHER

WATER

THE BAPTIST

WEDDING

PROPHET

WORD

SPIRIT

Matching: Andrew/Simon Peter; dove/Spirit; Elijah/prophet; Father/Son; John/the Baptist; light/darkness; Pharisee/Nicodemus; Philip/Nathaniel; Rabbi/teacher; temple/money changers; water/wine; wedding/Cana; word/Jesus. **Questions:** 1. Your name; 2. $1+1+1+11=14$. We said "figures," not numbers!