

# This is the Day...Tuesday

January 18, 2022

## The Right Thing

*“Bless are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:10)*

One warm springtime day, I was in my backyard playing with one of my neighborhood friends. I was excited that day because just the day before, my friend had celebrated his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. But it wasn't the birthday I was most excited about. I was excited because my friend had been given a brand new, state-of-the-art, real wood sling shot for his birthday. It was beautiful, with a thick rubber strap and leather pouch to hold the ammunition. My friend and I were excited to try out his new gift on some old cans and other targets. Since my friend and I had used a sling shot before, we were very familiar with its operation and optimal ammunition. We both decided that we were not just going to shoot old rocks with this fine weapon. We came to the shooting with pockets full of marbles! They would shoot straight and accurately.

We set up some old tin cans from the trash on the brick wall of our patio, then we backed up several paces and began taking turns shooting. I was amazed at how hard and fast those marbles flew from the weapon. Even though we had a perfect sling shot and ammunition, our aim was not very good. We rarely hit a can and mostly bounced the marbles off the brick wall or over the cans and into the grass. Things turned scary when it was time for my friend to have another turn. He pulled one of the big marbles from his pocket, loaded it into the sling shot, and pulled back the rubber strap as far as he could. When he fired the weapon the large marble flew toward the cans, ricocheted off the top of the brick wall, and flew out into the yard. A split second later I heard a crash of breaking glass. As we walked across the yard, my friend and I could see that the marble had flowed over to the neighbor's house and broken a large plate glass window on their house. Out of fear and instinct, my friend and I took off running as fast as possible. When we arrived at my friend's house, he told me to not tell anyone what had happened. If his parents found out they would take his sling shot away.

The next day I saw my neighbor, outside with a glass repair man, paying to have the big window fixed which we had broken. I knew that if I kept quiet, no one would ever know who broke the glass. But the knot in my stomach and my racing heart told me that I could not keep this secret. When I went over and told my neighbor what happened, he was very gracious and chalked it up to just an accident and, “Boys will be boys.” He said, “You did the right thing by telling me. It is never wrong to do the right thing.”

Sometimes, doing the right thing can be very unpopular. It can shine a light onto the guilt of others and yourself and can cause relationship problems. It can even bring persecution upon you. My friend was not very gracious with me when he found out I had confessed. His parents had grounded him, not for accidentally breaking the window, but for hiding the fact that he was guilty. So, he did not speak to me for weeks and called me a “goodie-two-shoes,” whatever that is. I hope one day he was able to learn the lesson my neighbor taught me. It is never wrong to do the right thing.