

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry

Rafe Hollister Sings

Introduction

The annual Ladies League Musicale will be held in Mayberry this year. Barney believes he will be chosen to represent his town, and he prepares excitedly for his audition. As he is practicing, Farmer Rafe Hollister drops by the courthouse on an errand and listens to Barney's wretched rendition of "Believe Me If All These Endearing Young Charms." Rafe begins singing the song in order to show Barney how it should be sung, and he does so beautifully. Much to Barney's chagrin, Andy encourages Rafe to audition too.

After the auditions, Barney believes he did very well. He overhears Mayberry's choir director, John Masters, say that thanks to Andy, a wonderful voice will represent Mayberry. When Masters mentions that the voice belongs to Rafe, Barney's ego takes a beating. When they are unhappy. The mayor and Mrs. Jeffries initially object to Rafe's appearance and his manner of dress. The mayor orders Andy to tell Rafe he did *not* win. Andy is very upset with this snobbish and unfair decision, but he does go and see Rafe...

Lesson Points

Prejudging Others (Matt. 7:1-5)

Preconceived Opinions (emphasis on appearance)

Caught up with Ourselves (Matt. 18:1-5)

Downgrading Others

Dealing with Prejudices (Rom. 13:8-10)

Making Excuses

Absence of Love

Destroying Unity (John 17:20-23)

Peer Pressure (James 1:12)

Hesitating to do what is Right

Wanting to Please Both Parties

Courage to Withstand (Gal. 6:9,10)

Unconditional Acceptance (Example of Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-7)

Begins in the Heart (Col. 3:12-15)

Discussion

Barney said he was afraid that Rafe would be embarrassed and humiliated if he tried out for the Musicale - who might he have really been worried would be embarrassed?

At first, Andy agreed to cooperate with the Mayor and Mrs. Jeffries. What later events changed his mind?

Comment on John Master's decision to select Rafe as the Mayberry representative.

Final Thought

By this, all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. -John 13:35

Matthew 7:1-5

1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Matthew 18:1-5

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.

Romans 13:8-10

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," [a] and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [b] 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

John 17:20-23

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Galatians 6:9-10

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Luke 19:1-7

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

Colossians 3:12-15

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.