

An Old Farmer's Advice

Jim Davidson, a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist who lives in Conway, Arkansas, describes a trip to the grocery store, especially to the produce section, and the act of trying to choose the best of what was left among lettuce, bananas, apples, carrots, tomatoes, squash and all manner of other fruits and vegetables.

“This is a process called ‘culling,’ which means ‘something picked or sorted out, especially something rejected as inferior,’” he writes.

“While culling is a normal, everyday process, there is another area of our lives that most people may not think about ... the ideas we run across and either use, reject or ignore. They can make a tremendous difference in our lifestyle, income, health and personal relationships,” Davidson said.

He offered some observations on life, entitled *An Old Farmer's Advice*,” apparently written by an unknown author. Since you are probably not a farmer, you may not relate to some of these, but there are some you will, so this is where the culling takes place. Here they are:

- Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
- Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- A bumblebee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
- Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.
- Meanness doesn't just happen overnight.
- Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
- It doesn't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- Every path has a few puddles.
- When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- Most of the stuff people worry about will never happen anyway.
- Don't judge folks by their relatives.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back you'll enjoy it a second time.



(more)

- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- The biggest troublemaker you will probably have to deal with watches you from the mirror every morning.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.
- If you get to thinking you are a person of influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around.
- Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Some of these sayings speak directly to me, and perhaps some serious reflection is stirred within you by a few of them.

The quality of our lives depends very much on the values, the truth and the faith commitment that we permit to rule in the marvelous mind that God has given us.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things (Philippians 4:8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter