

# Pebbles in Saddlebags

A parabolic legend has been passed down through the centuries to teach an important truth.

A band of nomads was preparing to retire for the evening when its members were greeted by a heavenly being. Mixed with fear and excitement, they waited for the angelic figure to speak. When the angel broke the silence, he gave them clear, but surprising, instructions.

He said, “Gather as many pebbles as you can and put them in your saddlebags. Travel a day’s journey; then this time tomorrow, you will be both happy and sad.”

As soon as the message was delivered, the angel departed.

The nomads began to express their anger and frustration over such an insignificant encounter. Each one reluctantly grabbed a small handful of pebbles and dropped them into his bags as they continued to voice their displeasure.

When they stopped the next night, they made a startling discovery. The pebbles they had collected were now diamonds.

They shouted with joy over their newfound wealth, but mourned the greater riches they could have enjoyed.

The care and service we provide in Life Care and Century Park may sometimes seem like pebbles on the ground – work that is difficult and demanding, and it is. We may even wonder on occasion if we could spend our time in a more personally beneficial way.

But if we remain faithful and our motives stay pure – realizing we are serving God by serving His children – we will someday know the joy of finding diamonds where the pebbles once lay.



What we do for others has heavenly consequences. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, gave this advice:

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal (Matthew 6:19-20 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter