

Pebbles in a Jug

Aesop (620 – 546 BC), by tradition born a slave in ancient Greece, is known for a genre of fables ascribed to him. No writings by Aesop survive, but numerous fables attributed to him were gathered and set down in writings across the centuries and in many languages in a storytelling tradition.

One of them is about an old crow who was out in the wilderness and very thirsty. He had not had anything to drink in a long time.

The crow came to a jug that had a little water in the bottom. He tried to reach his beak into the jug to get some of that water, but his beak wouldn't quite touch the water.

So what did he do? He started picking up pebbles one at a time and dropping them into the jug. And as more and more pebbles accumulated in the bottom of the jug, the water rose in the bottle until finally the old crow was able to drink all that he desired.

That's a parable of the way God has chosen to work out His plan in your life and in His kingdom. He adds pebbles – education, experience, failures from which we learn, crises we face, people we meet – that develop us to fulfill the Lord's purposes for us.

Then He expects us to contribute to His kingdom in many ways, such as the career path He sets before us, chaperoning youth on a camping trip, visiting a lonely neighbor, teaching a Bible class, coaching a little league baseball team, writing a book, preparing a casserole for a new neighbor, assisting a widow with some home improvement project. The list goes on and on.

Using the gifts that are ours to serve in whatever ways we can may not seem all that important at the time.

But as the pebbles accumulate in the bottom of the jug, and the water rises, God builds His kingdom and brings His plans to fruition.

– Beecher Hunter

