

REACTIONS OF 2 FARMERS

The story is told of two farmers who lived next to each other, with nothing but a river dividing their property.

One day, when the corn was ripe, the cows of one neighbor got out of their pasture and crossed the river into the other farmer's waving field of corn. They trampled and ruined about half an acre of the crop.

The farmer who owned the damaged corn crop rounded up the cattle and put them in his barn. He made his neighbor pay dearly for every ear of corn the cows had destroyed before he would return the cattle to him.

That fall, the hogs of the man whose corn had been eaten got out and crossed the river into the potato patch of the neighbor. They obliterated it.

The hog owner saw his hogs and the damage they were doing, and fully expected the neighbor to be furious. So he got his gun and hid himself. He vowed that if his neighbor harmed his hogs, he would shoot him.

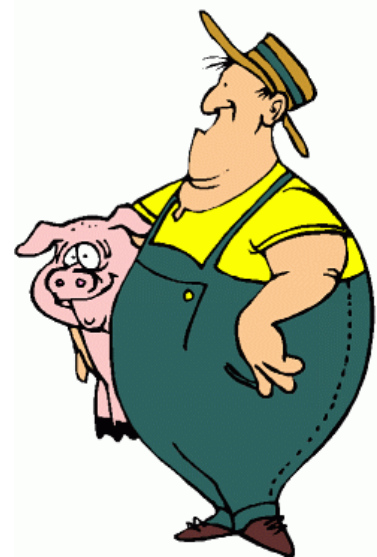
Instead, when the owner of the hogs saw that his neighbor had no intention of hurting the hogs, he was surprised. He said to him, "You have something I do not have. What is it?"

The neighbor replied, "I am a Christian."

That night, the owner of the hogs and his wife crossed the river and visited their neighbors. Both were converted to a faith in Christ before they left his home.

Here are a couple of observations about this story:

1. Self-control is much to be admired. It is essential in behavior to achieve goals. Anger is like a stone thrown at a hornet's nest.
2. For believers, can people judge by your words and actions that you are a Christian? Can they conclude that you have something they do not have – and want? The questions give us pause.



Do not be quick in spirit to be angry or vexed, for anger and vexation lodge in the bosom of fools (Ecclesiastes 7:9 AMP).

– Beecher Hunter