



Story Book Reflections – August 2020

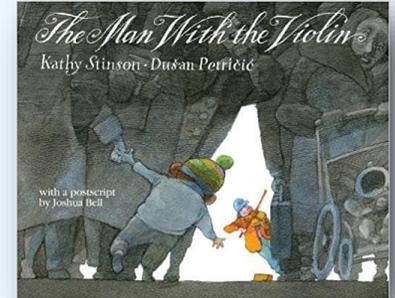
“A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest.”

C.S. Lewis

Here are but two suggestions for your Sabbath ‘Reflection’ Time drawing upon the wisdom of Children’s Story Books. You are invited to pause and read the selected scripture and then enjoy the wisdom of the selected Story Book.

The Man With the Violin

Kathy Stinson (Author), Dusan Petricic (Illustrator)
Winner of the 2014 TD Children’s Literature Award



Dylan is someone who notices things. His mom is someone who doesn't. So try as he might, Dylan cannot get his mom to listen to the man playing the violin in the subway station. But Dylan is swept away by the beautiful music that fills the air as crowds of oblivious people hurry past.

Based on the true story of Joshua Bell, a world-renowned classical violinist who famously took his instrument down into the Washington D.C. subway for a free concert. More than a thousand commuters rushed by him, but only seven stopped to listen, most of them children.

Scripture Wisdom 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel tell the history of the people of Israel as they move from being a confederation of tribes to a kingdom. You may remember that Samuel's, mother Hannah was childless. She prayed to God and vowed that if she had a child she would dedicate that child to God. And so Samuel was brought to the Temple and there he was mentored by Eli, the priest. The verses we read today are often referred to as “God’s Call”... yet equally important is Samuel’s listening...

The boy Samuel was serving GOD under Eli’s direction. This was at a time when the revelation of GOD was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad - he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of GOD, where the Chest of God rested.

Then GOD called out, “Samuel, Samuel!”

Samuel answered, “Yes? I’m here.” Then he ran to Eli saying, “I heard you call. Here I am.” Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” And so he did.

GOD called again, “Samuel, Samuel!”

Samuel got up and went to Eli, “I heard you call. Here I am.”

Again Eli said, “Son, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” (This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.)

GOD called again, “Samuel!” - the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, “Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am.”

That's when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, GOD. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'" Samuel returned to his bed.

Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

**Click on this YouTube Link to Enjoy Allyson & Amelia Parker
Read & Play... 'The Man With the Violin'**

<https://youtu.be/-Nf5zp2Cm2g>

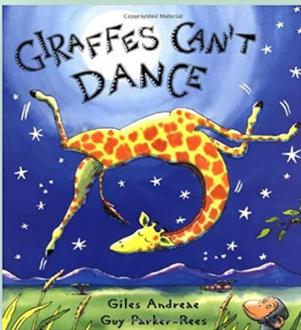
Joshua Bell, reflecting on that day, writes...

***Over 100 people heard me play my violin, but very few actually listened.
Among those who tried were several children, and I clearly remember them turning their
heads, straining to listen, while parents dragged them away, hurrying to their destination.
Music requires imagination and curiosity – two things children have a plenty.***

Plato is often credited as saying...

***"Music gives soul to the universe,
wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination,
and life to everything"***

I couldn't agree more.



Giraffes Can't Dance

Giles Andreae (Author), Guy Parker-Rees (Illustrator)

Gerald is a giraffe who simply can't dance. Try as he may, his long, spindly legs buckle whenever he starts to boogie. Every year he dreads going to the Great Jungle Dance, until one night he finds his own special music.

Scripture Wisdom 1 Corinthians 12 selected verses

As we turn to Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, we recall that as Paul writes this letter he is hearing that the Church and the Christians in Corinth are not really getting along. Instead of working together to continue the work of Jesus, they are arguing and divided: *I am better than you... I am more faithful than you... I have more to offer than you... I am more important...* So here Paul writes to them hoping to make them understand that for the Church to be the Church we need to remember that each and every one of us has a part to play.

My friends, you asked me about gifts.

Now there are different kinds of gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit.

There are different ways to serve the same God, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

God's Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit.

To others God's Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick or the power to work mighty miracles. Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can tell what these languages mean.

But it is God's Spirit who does all this.

The body of Christ, the church, has many different parts, just as any other body does.

I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. For just like our bodies, our church doesn't just have one part. Our bodies, our church, has many parts.

Suppose a foot says, "I'm not a hand, and so I'm not part of the body." Wouldn't the foot still belong to the body? Or suppose an ear says, "I'm not an eye, and so I'm not part of the body." Wouldn't the ear still belong to the body? ¹⁷If our bodies were only an eye, we couldn't hear a thing. And if they were only an ear, we couldn't smell a thing.

A body isn't really a body, and a church really isn't a church, unless there are more than one part. It takes many parts working in harmony to make a single body.

If one part of our body hurts, we hurt all over. If one part of our body is honored, the whole body will be happy.

Together then, you are the body of Christ.

**Click on this YouTube Link to Enjoy Taylor Toole
Read... 'Giraffes Can't Dance'**

<https://youtu.be/lduxZ2aa8bQ>

***I can not do everything, but I can do something.
I must not fail to do the something I can do.***

Helen Keller

