

Katy 1st Ward Spiritual Message #52
"The Parable Of The Mule"

Once there was a farmer who owned an old mule. One day the mule fell into a well and the farmer heard the mule "praying", or whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided he had to do something to save his beloved mule even if it meant losing the well. But what could he do. Finally he got this wonderful idea from a sermon he heard in church the week before titled "SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP". If it would work he thought it would be worth the trouble of saving his mule. He decided to shovel dirt into the well and then call down to the mule to "SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP". He called his neighbors and enlisted them to help haul dirt to save the old mule in the well and get him out of the well.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back, he heard the farmer call down to him, "SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP". Finally he realized that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back he could "SHAKE IT OFF" and "STEP UP"!

This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up... Shake it off and step up... Shake it off and step up!". To encourage himself he repeated these words. No matter how painful the blows, or how distressing the situation seemed, the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on "SHAKING IT OFF and STEPPING UP! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL at the top of that well!

What seemed like it would bury him actually helped him... all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. THAT'S LIFE!

Our pioneer forefathers faced life with that same tenacity. They were often starving, cold, sick and even having in some cases to bury their dead children in the frozen snow and treck on. But the kept moving over and stepping up and finally were able to get to the Salt Lake Valley to establish Zion and left a legacy for us to bless our lives.

If we face our problems, respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity the ADVERSITIES THAT COME ALONG TO BURY US, usually have within them the POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT US! All we have to do is find them.

Brother and Sister Vail

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