

Looking for Wonderful Things

At the beginning of a New Year, a high school principal decided to post his teachers' New Year's resolutions on the bulletin board. As the teachers gathered around the bulletin board, a great commotion started. One of the teachers was complaining. "Why weren't my resolutions posted?" She was throwing such a temper tantrum that the principal hurried to his office to see if he had overlooked her resolutions. Sure enough, he had mislaid them on his desk. As he read her resolutions he was astounded. This teacher's first resolution was not to let little things upset her in the New Year. I don't know how you are doing on your New Year's resolutions. I do know something more important than resolutions, though. How do you see this New Year? Is it one that you approach with anxiety or anticipation?

In 1922 Archaeologist Howard Carter was completing nearly fifteen years of digging in the famous Valley of the Kings in Egypt. He was hoping to find the royal tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun. Having found nothing, his days of digging were coming to an end. Money was running out. Then workers discovered sixteen stairs leading into the earth. Thousands of baskets filled with rocks and sand had to be carried away, but eventually, a door was found at the end of a long passageway. Carter drilled a small hole in the door and stuck an iron-testing rod into a dark, blank space. He then inserted a candle into the hole and peered in. As his eyes grew accustomed to the light, details emerged into his view, and he saw strange animals, statues, and everywhere the glint of gold. He wrote of that moment, "For the moment, I was struck dumb with amazement." A partner asked, "Can you see anything?" And Carter's reply was, "Yes, wonderful things." We too can look into this New Year and see wonderful things, if we are looking for them!

A certain king had two servants. To the first, he said, "I want you to travel for six months through my kingdom and bring back a sample of every weed you can find." To the second servant, the king said, "I want you to travel through my kingdom for six months and bring back a sample of every flower you can find." Six months later, both servants stood before the king. To the first, the king asked, "Have you carried out my command?" The first servant answered I have, and I was amazed to find there were so many weeds in the kingdom. There is nothing but weeds in this kingdom!" To the king's question, the second servant also answered, "I have, and I am amazed at how many beautiful flowers there are in the kingdom. There is nothing but beautiful flowers in this kingdom!"

These two servants each found what they were looking for. So do we. Are there no blessings in your life? Do you have no one who loves you, no beauty outside your window, no strength left in your body, no mind to guide you to new pleasures and opportunities, no faith to bear you up when circumstance weighs you down? Are you without any resources for making 2017 a wonderful year? Count your blessings, says the old hymn. As we look into this New Year, why shouldn't we see great and wonderful things? We have been blessed to be children of the most high God.