

**THE DISABLED FOX** A fable of the Arab mystic Sa'di: A man walking through the forest saw a fox that had lost its legs and wondered how it survived. Then he saw a tiger come in with game in its mouth. The tiger had his fill and left the rest of the meat for the fox. The next day God fed the fox by means of the same tiger. The man began to wonder at God's great goodness and said to himself, "I too shall just rest in a corner with full trust in the Lord and he will provide me with all I need."

He did this for many days, but nothing happened and the poor fellow was almost at death's door when he heard a Voice say, "O you who are in the path of error, open your eyes to the Truth! Follow the example of the tiger and stop imitating the disabled fox."

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your  
 life, what you will eat or drink;  
 or about your body, what you will wear.  
 Is not life more important than food,  
 and the body more important than  
 clothes? . . .  
 See how the lilies of the field grow. They do  
 not labor or spin.  
 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his  
 splendor  
 was dressed like one of these.  
 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field,  
 which is here today and tomorrow is  
 thrown into the fire,  
 will he not much more clothe you, O you of  
 little faith?  
 So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?"  
 or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall  
 we wear?"  
 For the pagans run after all these things,  
 and your heavenly Father knows that you  
 need them.  
 But seek first his kingdom and his  
 righteousness,  
 and all these things will be given to you as  
 well.  
 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for  
 tomorrow will worry about itself.  
 Each day has enough trouble of its own.  
 Matthew 6:25-34

My purpose  
 is that they may be encouraged in heart  
 and united in love,  
 so that they may have the full riches  
 of complete understanding,  
 in order that they may know  
 the mystery of God,  
 namely, Christ,  
 in whom are hidden all the treasures  
 of wisdom and knowledge.

I tell you this  
 so that no one may deceive you  
 by fine-sounding arguments.

Colossians 2:2-4

#### BY MY SIDE

Where are you going? Where are you going?  
 Will you take me with you?  
 For my hand is cold and needs warmth.  
 Where are you going?  
 Far beyond where the horizon lies  
 where the horizon lies,  
 and the land sinks into mellow blueness,  
 oh, please take me with you.  
 Let me skip the road with you,  
 I can dare myself, I can dare myself.

I'll put a pebble in my shoe  
 and watch me walk,  
 I can walk and walk.

I shall call the pebble dare.  
 We will talk together about walking,  
 dare shall be carried,  
 and when we both have had enough,  
 I will take him from my shoe, singing,  
 "Meet your new road."

Then I'll take your hand  
 finally glad that you are here  
 by my side. (by my side)  
 by my side (by my side)  
 by my side (that you are here)  
 by my side.

Jay Hamburger and Peggy Gordon  
 From the Musical Production "Godspell"

Jesus was committed to His mission here on earth which even included death on a cross. Because of His dedication to His commitment, He saved us from death and gave us everlasting life. However, He also gave us a mission. Jesus commanded us to "love one another." But He promised us He would always be by our side to give us strength and guidance.

Commitment is the key to following our mission. A mission that can lead to happiness and smooth sailing or discouragement and chaos. There are many servants of the Lord, such as Mother Theresa, who would never have succeeded without committing themselves to God and their missions. Commitments hold families together and make great things happen. But most importantly, if we are committed to Jesus, His commitment keeps God by our side.

“Miracles are not contrary  
 to nature but only contrary  
 to what we know about  
 nature.”