



A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

- 7054 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, CA 91306
- Mail To: P.O. Box 2711, Winnetka, CA 91396
- 818-795-5566 (cell phone)
- W. Bruce Evans, Minister e-mail to wbe@wolfenet.com

October 18, 2026

www.winnetkachurchofchrist.com

“HUMBLE YOURSELVES...”

Children's books have a way of etching their way into our life. Winnie the Pooh, The Jungle Book and one of my favorites, The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstone, carry within them subtle moral lessons. Recently I was reminded of one book that did find itself on the bookshelf in the “children’s section” in our home so many decades ago. Since the Velveteen Rabbit wasn’t an adventure book, nor was it one like “Mr. Fix-it Fox” who broke things to learn how to put them back together. The Velveteen Rabbit is a fanciful book that looks at what is true worth and value. The value of “being real” and the import of unconditional love and that one should desire emotional connection that is not based on physical attractiveness or material possessions. Heading concepts for a child, yes indeed. But the book, now over 100 years old is quite popular.

But apart from what is noted above with respect to the moral lesson found in the book, there is something else to consider. One of the other toys presented in the book is the wise old “Skin Horse”. He has witnessed any number of wind up toys added to the toy box of the young boy, they viewed themselves as superior and looked down with disdain upon others. Boastful and full of swagger, but as the “Skin Horse” went on to explain eventually they break and in the grand scheme of things amounted to nothing when it came to love.

The utter folly of boasting and a prideful nature is clearly identified as seen in Jeremiah 9:23. *“Let no wise man boast of his wisdom, nor let the mighty man boast of his might, nor a rich man boast of his riches.”* Then without missing a beat Jeremiah notes as inspired by God, *“but let him who boasts boast of this,*

that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.” If only all would embrace such a mind set?

Thinking back to the Velveteen Rabbit, loved served as the essential key to being “real”. Pomposity works against love. Note what Paul writes to the brethren in Corinth in his first letter to them, chapter thirteen, verse four. *“Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag, and is not arrogant.”* Consider as well what is found in James 4, verses six and seven, *“But He gives a greater grace. Therefore He says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4; see also Colossians 3:12-13) Such is the character of one who exemplifies the mind set expressed in Jeremiah 9:24. A knowledge of God but as well a putting into practice exactly what He desires. Not looking down on any, but searching out ways in which to lift them up.

As one goes through life, we as well will become broken as did the wind up toys in the story of the Velveteen Rabbit. Sure at one time we might have looked and sounded impressive, but all that pales in comparison to the way God’s great love lifts us up and challenges us to do likewise for others. (wbe)

