

## Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17-31

*Never let fear decide your fate. —Anon.*

Goats are funny creatures. Some would call them odd, cantankerous and completely devoid of impulse control.

One of the most unusual breeds is the so-called “fainting goats” of Marshall County, Tennessee. Also known as “falling goat” or the “Tennessee wooden-leg” goat, these critters are unique in that at the sound of a sudden noise or the appearance of a predator, they collapse in a catatonic state in which they’re utterly rigid. In this state, they usually topple to the ground as though dead. Rigor mortis sets in.

Of course, after the noise subsides, or the predator is gone, life returns to their limbs and they stand up, shake it off and go on their way.

The story of the Rich Young Ruler in today’s reading from the gospel of Mark reminds me of these falling goats.

Here’s a young man who wants to be a disciple of Jesus. He’s a fine fellow of strong moral character and apparently has an outstanding reputation in the community.

Jesus knows this. He even commends the young man on how he has conducted himself in life so far.

So Jesus agrees that this unnamed fellow should be one of his disciples — with one proviso: He needs to sell all of his possessions and give them to the poor.

At this point, the hitherto eager and very wealthy man goes into a catatonic state, suddenly freezing like a Tennessee fainting goat! Suddenly, he senses a threat to the wealth he has carefully accumulated in his young life. His breath constricts. Breathing is difficult. His hand goes to his throat. It is all he can do to turn and walk away.

The fellow has been seized by fear. He’s in love with his money. And so he turns down the opportunity of a lifetime. We never hear of him again.

Fear had paralyzed him.

What causes us to freeze with fear?

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, today in faith I stand against fear. You provide what I need. Therefore, I need fear nothing. Amen.*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 6-10

**Monday:** Daniel 7-9

**Tuesday:** Daniel 10-12

**Wednesday:** Esther 1-3

**Thursday:** Esther 4-7

**Friday:** Esther 8-10

**Saturday:** Psalms 114-118

**The Letter "O"**

The nine words below are spelled correctly, except they are missing one letter — O. Use these incomplete words to complete the verse below where you will find all the missing O's!

**S, NE, ANHER, GD, LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE**

Dear friends, since \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ us, we \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_  
 o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_  
 o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_.

*Verse to Remember*

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.*

—1 Corinthians 10:31

**Solution to The Letter "O" puzzle**

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" —1 John 4:11.

**BRAIN TEASERS:**

1. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right of the house in the middle, where is the white house?
2. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but nine die. How many are left?

**October 2021**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



*"October made the leaves on Main Street fit for a crown. They dripped from the trees in jewel-toned shades: yellow and orange and fiery red. The cool wind sent a confetti-cluster of leaves down around us."* — Natalie Lloyd

**SOLUTION TO BRAIN TEASERS**  
 1: Washington, D.C.  
 Answer to 2: nine.