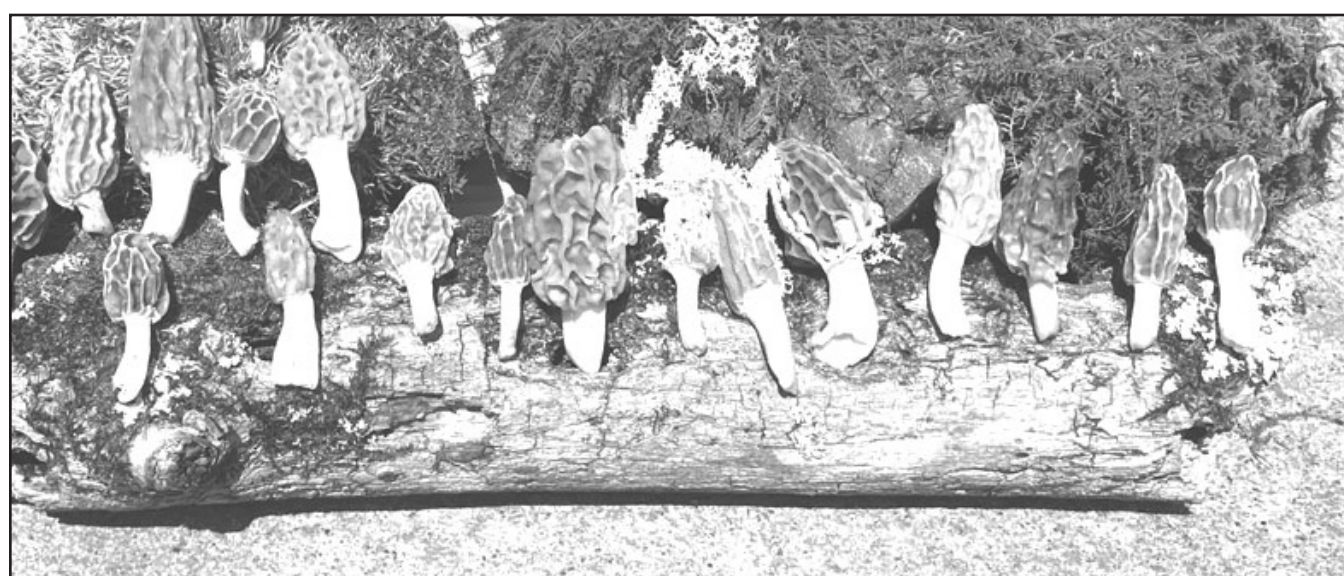


Mystique of the Mountain Mushroom



By Tammy W. Cole, Ed.D.

As spring begins to explode into bloom in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, the Dogwood Trees burst into white petals, the Redbud Trees show off their bright color, and the much sought after mountain mushroom pops up from the ground.

The mountain mushroom contains an aura of mystique as it suddenly appears as the sun begins to warm up the ground following a long, cold winter. Folklore has it that these little forest treasures literally pop up from the ground, rather than slowly growing as most things do.

The brown type mushroom generally appears in the Eastern Kentucky mountains in early April, followed quickly by the lighter colored white mushrooms. The edible morel mushroom has an intricate honeycomb like exterior and is cool and moist to the touch when picking them from the ground. The entire growing season is a fast one, generally believed to run

throughout the month of April depending upon the weather. Mushrooms are very elusive and the temperature of the ground and moisture from the rain/dew must be just right for them to pop up amidst the fallen tree leaves and new fern fronds on the ground.

The tradition of hunting mushrooms is handed down from generation to generation as many families keep their favorite mushroom hunting spots a secret. Many believe there is a connection between certain types of trees growing in the woods and mushrooms growing in the close vicinity. Others head out looking for Mayapples to be unfolding as the elusive mushroom may be growing in the shade of the Mayapple umbrella. And, still others believe it is sheer luck in stumbling upon a mess of mushrooms. One thing is certain, mushrooms are very peculiar in making their appearance and may return year after year to a certain location, then vanish never to return again in that area. Regardless of

which technique one believes best, be prepared to do a lot of hiking around the woods to find the elusive tiny treasures. Most mushrooms range in size from being smaller than a pinky finger to as large as a hand. The vast majority of morel mushrooms are around an inch or two tall, so be prepared to walk, hike, and scan the woods to find them. When picking mushrooms, pinch it off at the base of the stem as they are edible as well. The mushrooms are very fragile so treat them with respect as you carry them out of the woods in a lightweight bag.

Eating mushrooms represents a rite of passage from winter to spring for many families. Sitting down to a breakfast of homemade biscuits, gravy, and fried mushrooms symbolizes the beginning of warmer weather. The mushrooms can be cooked in a variety of ways, however, a couple of the most popular methods include bread-frying/frying the mushrooms to eat as a side dish, or sautéing them to go on a salad or such.

It is a good idea to soak the mushrooms overnight to avoid eating any tiny bugs that can crawl into the honeycomb texture of the mushrooms. The flavor of the mountain mushrooms is a bit hard to describe. Most agree that the earthy taste is like nothing else you'll ever eat. Perhaps the thrill of the hunt and picking them from their natural environment all adds to the distinctive flavor of the mountain mushroom.

The mushroom hunting season coincides perfectly with the arrival of spring and provides an incentive to get outside and enjoy hiking in the woods. The best way to hunt mushrooms is with an experienced mushroom hunter who knows how to find the edible treasures. In Eastern Kentucky, it's generally a family tradition with some members of the family claiming to know the elusive growing spots. Regardless, mushroom hunting is a fun way to enjoy hiking in the woods and enjoying springtime in the mountains.

The Psalm of the Cross

Sunday, April 12, 2020 Morning Message
Bro. Warren Rogers, Ivory Hill Baptist Church

Before you start reading this, get your Bible and turn to Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, John 17 and Zechariah 11. Put a book mark in these and we are ready to go. Don't rush, I'll wait on you.

“... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? ²O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. ³But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. ⁴Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. ⁵They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. ⁶But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. ⁹But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. ¹⁰I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly. --
Psalm 22: 1-10

The way David writes this, you would think he was standing at the foot of the cross. Amazing that over 1,000 years before the crucifixion he penned these words. The gospels recorded historical facts of Jesus' death but only in Psalm 22 are his thoughts revealed. *The chapter in my Bible is titled, "A plea for help."*

As you read this you realize that the opening words were the same that Jesus spoke on the cross. You can also realize that it is a picture of our Lord's saddest hours, the record of his dying words. As we read, we have before us a description of both the darkness and the glory of the cross.

Things we will see in this Psalm:

FIRST: We see Jesus wondering about injustice. Yes. Jesus was quoting the Psalm from the cross, and it was appropriate for him to do so, because God knows the end from the beginning. A thousand years before Jesus went to the cross, God revealed what Jesus would say on the cross.

Jesus (was) willing to come to earth as a man, willing to go through all the temptations of life, willing to show us that day, that it is alright to question, Why?

We sometimes have these same type of questions. Why is this terrible thing happening to me? Why did I get sick? Why did the wreck happen? Why did they die so soon?

We know it's all right to ask why because Jesus did on the cross and he never did anything wrong.

READ: Isaiah 53:4-6 & Zechariah 11:12-13

SECOND: He realized that men despised him.

Read Psalm 22: 6-8. Jesus realized that there was no one there who could or would help him. He knew what people thought of him. It had to be hard when he thought of all the times he had healed, forgave, and loved people; to think they turned their backs on him.

John 1:11 says, "He came unto his own and his own received him not."

Sometimes we go through times in our life when it seems that no one cares for us. You can either get frustrated with the fact or shrug it off. You can either become a bitter person who gripes that the rich get richer and the poor gets poorer; and it isn't fair; or you can accept reality and go on with your life. You can either grumble about it or you can decide to work for something better. One thing you cannot do is hold resentment in.

Thank God we have a Savior who loved us enough to die for our sins and has gone to prepare a home for us in heaven. Jesus is always there reaching out his hand to help us along life's way.

THIRD: Read Psalm 22:9-10 We see God and Son in a marvelous relationship. Now read John 17: 1-5. Jesus realized that no matter what was to happen while he lived, that God was still his father, his God.

Some times we get down on life and say, "Oh me, oh my." We start with our pity party. We think that no one has it as hard as we do. As we look upon Jesus' life we realize that we have nothing to complain about.

We need to count our blessings every day and thank Jesus for all he has done for us. We need to remember that God made us and He loves us in spite of our sins.

Hebrews 13:5 says: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for He has said, I will never leave thee not forsake thee.

As we celebrate this Easter morning, let us reflect upon our own lives and do a reality check.

Do we have problems that God cannot handle?

Do we gripe about our situation in life?

Or do we accept what God has given us and make the best of it?

In life we are neither too poor or too rich to serve God with all our heart and soul. Let's be truthful with ourselves and ask, 'Am I doing what God wants me to do?' 'Am I as close to the Lord as I can be?'

Remember, even though Jesus was suffering, he never gave up on His father. We must never give up on our Savior, Jesus Christ; King of Kings, Lord of Lords!

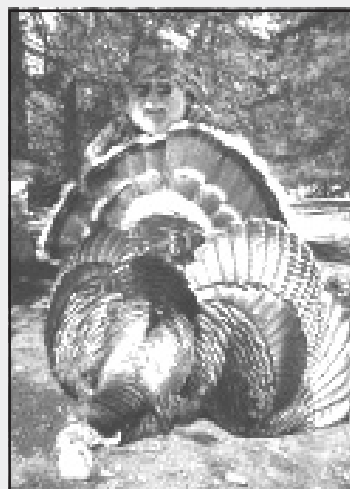
Let's make Him Lord of our souls this year. I am sure we will be blest over and over again!

May God richly bless you and your family and friends is my prayer!

Love you all! Have a wonderful day in the Lord!

Bro. Warren Rogers

PS: I would rather be preaching than writing. It is hard for me to convey what God wants me to say when I am writing. I hope you get something out of this and I really hope that we can be back in church before too long. When we get back you might ought to bring a snack, because I feel like I will preach for a long while. LOL



Just Hunting

by Steve Brewer

I have been taught, mostly in my youth, never ask anyone to do something you won't do yourself. I learned my best lessons while in high school, at Fleming-Neon High School, selling year book ads. Go to one business, they would say, well I can't buy one, but if you go to so and so, I am sure they will. I never followed up.

When I first came north to this county, I was taken aback at the difference a couple hundred miles made in people. I found myself in an awkward world I never quite understood. I was coming from a world where I owned the land to hunt on and also had a 175 acre farm in West Virginia and 90 acres in North Carolina, to an area with what seemed to be unlimited places to hunt. Back home, and it will always be back home for me, a knock on the door, a smile, and a warm hug, got you permission to hunt anywhere. Not the case here. I remember my first deer season, thanks to my friend Jeremy Wiseman, I was able to take a nice buck on some of his family's land, and it cost me the same thing it would have back home, just a smile, and a hug; he did the knocking.

I was on a quest to find me some turkey land, the land I had hunted seemed good for deer, but no turkey. I ran an ad in this local paper, I thought even if there is nobody that will let me hunt, without paying, maybe they will lease it to me. I got

a response, he had a piece of land, we went and looked at it, I leased it for a year. I was telling some guys sitting around in Rick Hardy's store about it.

"You have something to learn about around here," one of the fellows said. "That piece of property is hunted to death, people think if the owner gave permission to their great granddads, they can still hunt there and do.

"Besides that," he went on to say, "there are dogs running everywhere over there."

I was not discouraged, I was sure if I posted the property, hunters would not hunt there. I really liked the old man I leased it from, he has since passed away. Opening day of turkey season brought to life what I had been told, one hit on my call, and it seemed like 20 dogs started barking, three came to my calls. Now what to do, kill the dogs or hang tight, I hung tight. I finally killed my gobbler around noon, I guess after the dogs went to bed. Anyway, my friend Greenville Estes came to my rescue, and took me to several of his friends, who have allowed me to hunt, at no charge. Thanks Greenville.

Now after the long way around, and what we started this story about, never ask anyone to do something you won't do yourself. Turkey season comes in on the 18th day of April, the Governor has asked us to all stay in, and I am trying to stay that course. I have yet to make up my mind rather to hunt or not. I have never missed an opening day in Kentucky since it opened in the early eighties. Since I may and may not be going this year, I would never ask you to do something I would not do. So the decision is yours. But let me leave you this week with these thoughts. Please don't go on to property you don't own, you don't have permission to hunt; and put your dogs up, some other hunter may not "Hang tight". If you do go, have fun, send me your stories, we will write about your adventure....

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