

It would be a blessing
if each human being
were stricken blind and
deaf for a few days at
some time during his
adult life. Darkness
would make him more
appreciative of sight;
silence would teach
him the joys of sound.

Helen Keller

APPRECIATE



Early Saturday morning I went on a trip. As is one of my customs, I got lost on purpose. “How do you do that ?” you ask, well here’s how; you drive until you come to an intersection. Then you take “the road less traveled”. Until you come to another intersection, then you choose the road less likely to lead home. And soon you are somewhere you have never been. This is what happened Saturday morning.

This photo was taken next to a one lane bridge on a country road in Cleburne County, Alabama. I had been walking around this bridge for a few minutes when two fellows in a beat up old pickup truck stopped to chat. “What are you filming?” I tell them, “Just anything and everything”. I ask them, “Where are we? What do you call this place?” I will never forget what he told me. “What do I call this place? I call this place home. I have lived here all my life. It might not look like much to you, but I love it.”

My new friend treasured and appreciated this place. Where I was only lost, he lived. The things I was merely Looking at, he loved. He knew the history of this bridge, he knew where the creek originated, each road had a name to him. If a storm washed this bridge away, I would be unaffected. But, he would lose something that was special to him. He had memories of playing in its waters when he was a child and now its waters bring life to his farm.

I left this place changed. Some of his appreciation for what was all around, seemed to rub off on me. I looked at the bridge in a different way. Then as I looked at this flower, I saw more than a flower. I saw a billboard which declared, “**Appreciation**: To understand the value and importance of what is in your life today”.

So today, pause and take notice of the familiar things that make up your world, or the well-known people who visit your cubical. Do you fully appreciate them? Do you recognize their value? Or, is it going to take losing them before we realize how important they are?

Something to think about:

- Appreciation is a wonderful thing: it makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.
- It is human nature to grumble at having to get up early in the morning—until the day comes when you can’t get up.
- The question is not what a man can scorn, or disparage, or find fault with, but what he can love and value and appreciate.
- To be really enjoyed, sleep, health, and wealth must be interrupted.
- Appreciation is one of the rarest but one of the most beautiful virtues.

Your friend who is just a little lost

Rickey Moore