



I took this photo early one Saturday Morning in September at the place I call Round Lake; located on Alabama highway 9 where it meets Choccolocco Road. It was such a perfect way to begin a day; watching as the sun begins his slow march across my southern sky; feeling the cool morning breeze; watching as the mist slow dances over the warm waters of the lake. Everything seemed perfect on this blessed morning.

As I survey the sights around the lake, I am naturally drawn to this recreational device suspended from this cedar tree. As I look at the silhouette of this tree swing I try to imaging the young group of engineers who designed and built it. I imagine a small group of kids wandering around the lake trying to find something to do. I envision at the end of their hasty inventory of assets' one member of the group saying, we only have a rope and a stick, what can we do with that?

I can see as the leader of the Young Engineers opens the floor for nominations; one young man says, why don't we try fishing? Another votes for making a whip; the debate continues until one of them begins to climb the tree and asks for the end of the rope. And the rest is history. Can you hear the laughter and imagine the hours of pleasure this rope and stick have brought? We purchase expensive toys like Playstation3 or Xbox and here they are playing with a rope and a stick. Now this is proof that the best things in life are still free?

We could each learn a lesson from our young engineers. We should stop chasing after happiness and simply enjoy what is right in front of us. All a person has to do to be truly happy is to merely slow down enough to enjoy the blessings already in his life. Let us realize that God

has already given us everything we need for our present happiness. Too often we convince ourselves that we can only be happy when we get more or acquire something new or become like somebody else; when the truth is, if I am not satisfied with what I have, I will never be satisfied with what I want.

Enjoy your life today, because happiness is a choice. We are usually as happy as we make up our minds to be. Why don't you do a quick inventory of the many wonderful blessings in your life and then go out and enjoy what you have been given. One day all these things we now take for granted will be gone; want it be sad to have never opened the gift and enjoyed it? What have you got to lose?

Something to think about:

- He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.
- When life isn't the way you like, like it the way it is.
- Happiness is as a butterfly, which, when pursued, is always just beyond our grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.
- Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get.
- Happiness is living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.
- Those who chase happiness run away from contentment.

Your friend with the big smile
Rickey Moore