

50.Lessons in Practical Happiness

Lesson 1

After winning an argument with his wife, the wise man will apologize.

1. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
2. What do you think would happen if he did not apologize?
3. Who is more likely to apologize, men or women?

Lesson 2

“He’s the kind of friend you can depend on – always around when he needs you.”

1. Is the man referred to a good friend, do you think?
2. Do you have any friends like that?
3. How should we deal with this kind of friend?

Lesson 3

When I was in line to buy something at the department store, the woman in front of me was rummaging through her wallet. When she finally found her credit card and took it out, a slip of paper drifted to the floor. As I picked it up to return it to her, I saw what was written on it: Sue, Do you think this purchase is really necessary? – Bob”.

1. Who do you think wrote the note?
2. What was the purpose of the note?
3. Does a credit card in a woman’s purse give too much stress to a man?
4. How is it different from a credit card in a man’s wallet?



Lesson 4

What is Charity?

Silence – when your words would hurt.

Patience – when your neighbor is curt.

Deafness – when scandal flows.

Thoughtfulness – for other's woes.

Promptness – when duty calls.

Courage – when misfortune falls.

1. Why is it difficult for most people to hold their tongue?
2. Who says patience is hard? Do you think so?
3. How hard is it not to pay attention to gossip?
4. Do you really think you are thoughtful to others? Give examples.
5. In advance of the time it is needed, can anyone count on having courage?

Lesson 5

When none of my children managed to drop by my house for weeks, I was more than a little miffed. Eventually, though, a visit was arranged. My husband admonished me not to cause hard feelings by complaining about their lack of attention, so I didn't say a word. I just had them fill out name tags when they entered.

1. Why was she annoyed?
2. What was her husband worried about ?
3. Was her behavior appropriate?

Lesson 6

That man will pat you on the back, and then charge you for a massage.

1. What is being implied about that man?
2. Is there anything that's free?

Lesson 7

The self-made tycoon was expounding on the secret of his success. "I came to the conclusion that doing one's job wholeheartedly, to the best of one's ability, brings more satisfaction than the money one earns."

"So you became rich after you convinced yourself of that?" he was asked.

"No," interrupted a rival businessman, "he got rich after he convinced his employees."

1. Is anyone really "self-made"?
2. What adjective would you use to describe the tycoon's character?
3. Do you think the rival was being jealous or truthful?

Lesson 8

My father doesn't tell me how to live; he just lives and lets me watch him do it.

1. What is Dad's teaching method?
2. What did your parents teach you? How?
3. Do you think being a good role model is easy?

Lesson 9

Though my mother never finished high school, she always placed a high value on education. When I got tired of school and thought about quitting the "rat race," she reminded me that life itself is just one big rat race – but college teaches us which rat to bet on.

1. According to the speaker, why is education important?
2. Have you ever been tired of studying and wanted to quit?
3. Is getting a university degree the only valid kind of education?



Lesson 10

Disability is a matter of perception. Even if you can do only one thing well, and nothing else, someone somewhere needs you.

1. Do you have to be the best at something to do it well?
2. If your talent is very ordinary, do you still have value to others?
3. Which is better, to be "a jack of all trades and master of none" or to concentrate on one skill and fail at everything else?

