

Mid-Week Devotion

We come undone.

It's not a pretty fact, but it is inevitable. There are seasons when we are growing into the person we always hoped we'd be. Then, we come apart, and all of our rough edges are showing again. And it is in seasons like that when I need to hear the gospel of the Velveteen Rabbit.

The Velveteen Rabbit is a children's book telling the story of a stuff toy rabbit wondering what to do when he is replaced by a windup toy or eventually cast away. Perhaps that is a familiar feeling, when we wholeheartedly believe we were better before.

The Velveteen Rabbit has a moment of candor about this fear when talking to the Skin Horse. Skin Horse is an older, wiser toy. And the Skin Horse explains that in the process of being loved, we are not diminished. We are becoming real.

Real is not about how you are made, says the horse. It happens to you. It might hurt. And it happens slowly, over time. But where you are really, really loved, you become real.

Sometimes we worry we are being undone, unmade, unpolished. But we are *becoming*. We become real through our wear and tear. Our shabbiness might be unacceptable to an Instagram world. After all, our culture confuses glamour with beauty and wisdom with by lines.

May we always know the difference. May we not despise our realness. After all, we can never become ugly to those who understand us.

adapted from "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler

The Parable of the Two Sons

"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Matthew 21:31 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 20:28-32 (NIV)



Z I N C K I N G D O M L T R K
T A K G D W M X V H N K T N W
M Z O Y H W A Y V T I Z N W M
Y W B R F T J Y X N M R S B O
T D G S H E I L M O H Z N O G
N R D Z F O T O D A Y F L L W
H O U W T F L W O R K L O Y Y
G H O T A H T G B E L I E V E
G H Q S H D I Q Q G A R N V C
S P U E H P J N V M V H S E P
G G F Q U Z H S K V O F X S L
J K U M J N N I A J J Y L O S
V I N E Y A R D I E Q Z K N Q
L U F A T H E R F R G A R S W
D I O F E Y N D H E F W U W X

MAN
THINK
SONS

GOD
TODAY
FATHER

JOHN
WAY
TWO

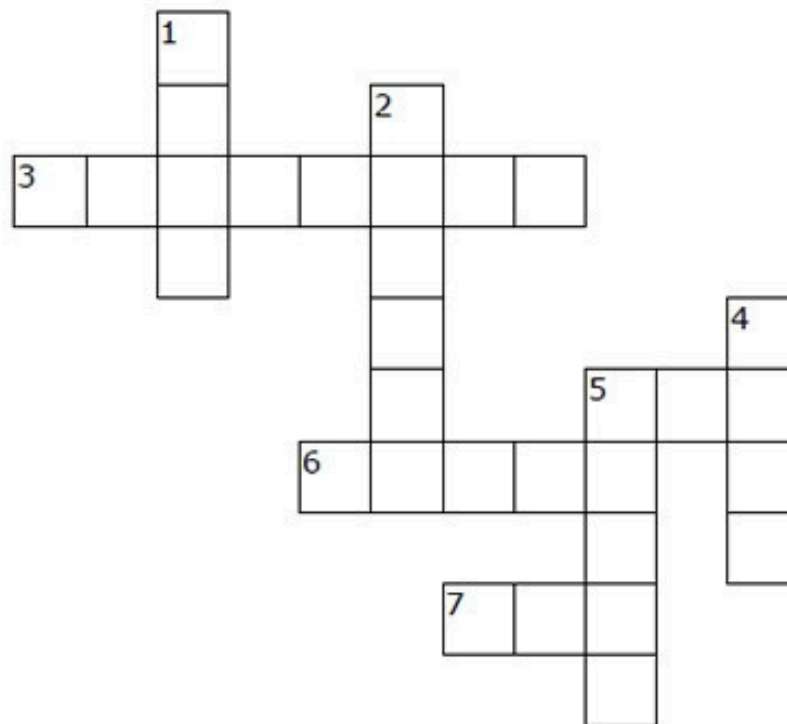
KINGDOM
WORK
TRUTH

BELIEVE
VINEYARD
SHOW

The Parable of the Two Sons

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Based on Matthew 21:28-32



ACROSS

- 3. A place where grapes are grown
- 5. The number following one
- 6. A statement proven or accepted as accurate
- 7. An adult male

DOWN

- 1. A person's male children
- 2. A male parent
- 4. To perform a job or task
- 5. To have an opinion or idea about something

WORK
TWO

VINEYARD
MAN

TRUTH
SONS

THINK
FATHER