10/23/13 - Be Responsible, Be Rewarded

RG AUDIO 102313

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

An evangelist told an inspiring story from the days when one-room schoolhouses were plentiful across the United States. The teacher was having a difficult time. Her students refused to clean their muddy shoes before coming inside. At the teacher's request, the superintendent dropped in to encourage the students to keep their classroom floors shiny by cleaning their muddy shoes. He promised to make a surprise return and on that day a prize would be given to the student who had the cleanest shoes.

For weeks everyone cleaned their shoes, however, after a month had passed only one girl, Gracie, continued to cheerfully keep her shoes clean. As her classmates mocked her, Gracie sweetly replied, "I believe the kind man's promise."

A week later one of the boys pointed outside the raindrop-filled window and cried loudly, "Look, the kind man is coming! He has a pony with him!" All the children jumped from their desks and furiously attempted to clean up the muddy floors beneath them. That day, Gracie did not walk home. She galloped home on her new pony.

Author: Kerry Willis