



MONDAYS

with Mike

Acres of Diamonds

Russell Herman Conwell, the founder of Temple University, traveled the country telling the classic story of “Acres of Diamonds.” It is a story about greener pastures and where we should be looking for opportunity:

An African farmer heard about people who had made huge fortunes by discovering diamond mines. The farmer wanted to be rich, so he sold his farm and began to search the African continent for diamonds. He spent the rest of his life in fruitless pursuit of the diamonds that would bring him wealth. Eventually broke, despondent, and desperate, he threw himself into a river and drowned.

Meanwhile, one day, the man who had bought the farm found a large stone in the stream that transversed the property. The stone turned out to be an enormously valuable diamond. He soon discovered that his farm was covered with diamonds. The farm became one of the world’s richest diamond mines. The first farmer had owned literally “acres of diamonds,” but had sold them for practically nothing in order to look for them elsewhere.

Most people feel that the opportunities are always greater elsewhere – in another company, in another town, in another line of work. But before leaving your present pasture, examine it carefully. Each of us is standing, right now, in the middle of our own “acres of diamonds.” We need the wisdom and patience to look intelligently at our present situations. We will find that they contain riches we seek – financial, intangible, or both. Before we seek “greener pastures,” let’s be sure our own is not just as green – or even greener. If someone else’s pasture looks greener, perhaps it is because it is getting better care.

Find wisdom and patience as you care for your pastures this week!