

Roy

“Until we meet again, may the good Lord take a liking to you.” Roy Rogers

Roy Rogers reruns are good for the soul. The images of the clean cut and good natured TV cowboy saving people from rustlers and outlaws every day are good and uplifting. The values and aims of those days are needed in the confused and difficult times in which we live.

How a man who grew up on a small farm in Ohio, and, in his own words, “did pretty good for a guy who didn’t finish high school and used to yodel at square dances” became a major movie and tv star. He said about his early life, “we were so far back in the woods, they almost had to pipe in sunlight.”

He spent his off camera days visiting shelters, missions, and kids who needed to meet their hero is an amazing transformation. He galloped into our hearts as a TV cowboy, but became a real life hero we could always count on to do what was right. Known for his deep compassion and his Christian faith, he tried to put both into action on a regular basis. I commend the same combination for you and me in today’s world. “I always feel a responsibility to the kids, to be somebody they could look up to.”

That is what we need today, somebody we can look up to. Our television heroes, our political leaders, even Christians sometimes, they fall far short of someone we can look up to. Most are poor examples of morality, thought, and vision. We must return to the values of yesterday which put other people first, and lift up God as the present and ultimate solution.

Hollywood, which once to produced films which inspired and made people laugh in a healthy way, has dropped to the lowest common denominator, sin. Even thirty years ago, Roy was saying, “Today they’re making pictures that I wouldn’t want Trigger [his horse in case you don’t know] to see.” “The world changed,” goes Roy. “Hollywood changed. I think we’ve lost something, and we don’t know how to get it back.”

I suppose it is only as we get older that we begin to see the world and spiritual aims for what they are really supposed to be. Simple, healthy thoughts are the best. We must see the dangers for what they are and for the terrible things they can do for us. As Roy said, “When you’re young and fall off a horse, you may break something. When you’re my age and you fall off, you splatter.”

Our world is splattering all over the place, and the pendulum which swings between God's way and the world's way will one day swing back to faith. It always does. It just sometimes takes a lot longer that we want it to.

What Roy found was that faith is the only thing that matters. And the values which come from our Judeo-Christian faith will always be there, whenever we decide to see and embrace them.

The rules for young cowboys and cowgirls of Roy's TV club in the 1950's still ring true, a clarion call to truth in a world of confusion and darkness for many.

#### Rider's Rules By Roy Rogers

1. Be neat and clean.
2. Be courteous and polite.
3. Always obey your parents.
4. Protect the weak and help them.
5. Be brave but never take chances.
6. Study hard and learn all you can.
7. Be kind to animals and take care of them.
8. Eat all your food and never waste any.
9. Love God and go to Sunday school regularly.
10. Always respect our flag and our country.

All of the Cowboy Rules are needed, but the last two remind us of values we must embrace to find our way as a country and world again. Loving God, going to Sunday school and church, these are things our world has run over by scheduling things on Sunday morning which conflict with worship and Christian education. And respect for flag and country? O for the days when "My country 'tis of thee" rings out from proud and loving hearts once again.

Roy wrote this prayer long ago, a fine example of Christian faith and the cowboy way coming together. There is absolutely no reason why our faith and lifestyle cannot be the same.

Lord, I reckon I'm not much just by myself,  
I fail to do a lot of things I ought to do.  
But Lord, when trails are steep and passes high,  
Help me ride it straight the whole way through.  
And when in the falling dusk I get that final call,  
I do not care how many flowers they send,  
Above all else, the happiest trail would be,  
For YOU to say to me, "Let's ride, My Friend."

Thank you, Roy, for reminding us where we came from and where we should go. Thank you for your example, and most of all for your faith. Happy trails to you, as you sang each week at the end of your TV show, until we meet again.

