



SIEBENQUELL

Exploit fully that which is given and fashion it!



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How ordinary and unremarkable we often find our lives. Where are the great things that we do? Indeed, if we had better conditions, more money, more support, more space, more freedom, then...! So we often remain stuck in the old, feel sorry for ourselves and lag behind our possibilities.

In these weeks a woman is at the center of our Well Spring Days, who could have told us tales about this: her life was small, inconspicuous and marked by progressive illness. And yet it is precisely in the way she shaped her restricted life that she can become a guide to the »grace of everyday life« for us. It is Maud Lewis from Digby in the province of Nova Scotia, Canada, who died in 1970 at the age of 67 in the region where she had lived all of her small life.

From the earliest days of her childhood, this woman had many reasons to complain about all her troubles and obstacles - physical, human, economic-financial. Everything was far less than »sub-optimal". In all areas, her life was far more than modest.

But she did not rub herself raw on all that. She didn't waste energy on what she couldn't change. Instead, she poured out her energy and her small moments of freedom into what was close to her heart, for that for which her heart burned: painting. She did not wait until she had suitable paper, the right colors and perfect brushes. In that case, she would never have started! Nor did she wait until someone gave her permission, telling her that she was now ready, that she could or was allowed to paint. No, she just painted - the world that surrounded her, the small world of her humble everyday life. And when she found more colors and cardboard scraps or wooden boards, she painted more. And when she discovered free spaces on the stairs or the walls of her little house or the window frames, she painted there. She acted according to the motto: If I find more space, I can paint more. So she fully exploited the possibilities that were offered to her and created a world of pictures for which she is loved throughout Canada.

She does even more for us: She points us in the direction of the Bible. At her side, for example, we can learn to look at parables in a completely new way. She guides us to a new path as to what Jesus wants to show us with his stories. With the characters of the parables, Jesus tells us exactly this: Work with what is available to you and make full use of it. If you are a farmer, sow and then reap what the earth has produced. If you are a vinedresser, then loosen the soil and fertilize to allow growth. If you are a widow who has been treated unjustly, be persistent and stand up for your rights. And if you are the steward of an exploiting master, be wise and use wisely what you have been given. If you find a treasure in the field, use everything to obtain it.

At times we love to talk the opportunities that present themselves to death. Maud Lewis lived differently: »Wherever I found grace in everyday life, I learned not to negotiate.«

Rosemarie Monnerjahn

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