



#122 The Koala Kingdom



In the Koala Kingdom, everyone ate eucalyptus leaves. They stored leaves on their shelves and sold leaves in their marketplace. Parents loved leaves and children loved leaves. They even had a system of leaf-money where leaves were used to represent what one friend owed to another. It would happen like this. Dorothy would help Herman with his roof, so Herman would say, "I owe you something, Dorothy. Please take these leaves as tokens of my appreciation, and a reminder that I owe you a favor." In time, Dorothy would ask Herman, "Do you remember that I helped you? Here are the leaves you gave me as a reminder. Might I ask for a favor in return?" So, it happened in the Koala Kingdom that leaves were food - but they were also money!

In many ways, the Koala Kingdom was much like every other in the whole wide world. They had food and they had money; they worked and they played. But there was one way that the Koala Kingdom was very different. Just like fruit or bread that gets stale and then goes bad, their money could also become OUT-OF-DATE! You see, the leaves would shrivel up and die if you

kept them too long. Now, I know that this may sound unfortunate to you. You may be thinking, “Why did they continue using leaves, when they knew their money was dated?” But that is the incredible, INTENTIONAL difference and the beauty of the Koala Kingdom! The result of keeping a leaf-money system was that no one could hoard money. As soon as someone collected some leaf money, they would spend it or share it - for it would do no one any good, if kept too long. The kingdom therefore had no rich, upper class and no poor, lower class. If you went there you would see working and playing alike. You would see sharing and spending among a koalakind where no one saw themselves as better than another. Visitors to Koala Kingdom often remarked, “We should try this system back home!” But as far as I know, no one has.

IS SHARING REALLY INCONCEIVABLE?