

FRIDAY, October 23, 2009

Robert V. Remini in his book, *John Quincy Adams*, records how one man played a pivotal role in Mr. Adams being elected president. Remini records:

“As the ballot box neared him, Van Renssalaer lowered his head to his desk and prayed for divine guidance. Then, as he raised himself to an upright position he spotted a ballot lying on the floor with the name of John Quincy Adams. A man of his faith immediately saw it as an answer to his prayer and with “great excitement” picked up the ballot and thrust it into the ballot box. According to Van Buren, that single vote broke the New York tie and elected Adams as the sixth president of the United States.”

Does the expression, “grasping at straws” come to mind when reading this account of Adam’s election? Well, maybe so. But being a man or woman of faith affords us that luxury.

Maybe you are like me; I don’t have the luxury of making decisions in the calm relaxed isolation of a get-away. I have to make most decisions on a “wing and a prayer.” Life comes at us fast. We try to do the best we can by gathering as many facts as possible and then prayerfully/hopefully we make wise decisions. But thank God the final results do not rest with you and me, that is if you are a man or woman of faith. If the final authority in your life is God, then you have the peace of knowing that God gets the last word whether you get it exactly right or not.

Now that is a thought that gives me peace. How about you?

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 16:1-3

SATURDAY, October 24, 2009

Here it is another Saturday! It is hard to believe that another week has gone by. But just before we chalk this one up for the records, let me encourage you to take a moment and reflect.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, *“In a moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.”*

As you reflect on this week you can pretty much count on the fact that what has happened this week is a reflection of the decisions that you have made – or not made.

What pending/nagging issue are you going to carry over into next week? Is there something that you’ve been putting off? Is there a conflict that you know you need to deal with but you just hate having to confront the person?

Before closing the books on this week, why not make the commitment that this is going to be the last week you carry the burden of that unresolved issue. Remember, the only thing worse than a bad decision is to not make a decision at all. A bad decision can be improved on, but to do nothing means that you have given up any possibility of things getting better. Enough of that! Now is the time to take a step of action. Now is the time to practice a little faith and dare to believe in yourself...and God.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27:13



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of October 18, 2009

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

Personal Notes:



MONDAY, October 19, 2009

Matthew 10:29-31 (NKJV) ²⁹ *Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.* ³⁰ *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.* ³¹ *Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

If you are like most people, I would guess that you are familiar with today's verses. But I'd also guess that you do not know the context in which Jesus spoke them. To fully understand them you would need to read Matthew 10:27-42. (You may want to stop and do so at this point. Especially notice verse 28 and verses 32-33.)

If you read Matthew 10:27-42 you will now see that this special promise is especially written to remind us that God watches over those who suffer for the cause of the Gospel.

This doesn't mean that you are to go out this week and try to rouse up some persecution! There is no merit in that. But you've probably learned by now that just living a Christian life stirs up enough trouble. Your values and priorities will constantly be rubbing against the values and priorities of our society. This will happen this week. There will be times that you will question, "Is it worth it?" There will be times that you will not be included in the inner circle. For some of you the stakes will be higher. An unbelieving family member, associate or stranger may do things to deliberately hurt and embarrass you.

But be of good cheer; God knows and He sent His Son to remind you that there is a special blessing for those that choose to live a God-honoring life.

SCRIPTURE: I Peter 1:3-9

TUESDAY, October 20, 2009

Recently I read, "*If you think a seat belt is uncomfortable, you've never tried a stretcher!*"

That quotation grabbed me for some reason and I entered it into my quotation log. It was a reminder to me to keep the right perspective on things.

This morning I am writing this devotional in Dillard, GA. I am meeting with my staff in our once-a-year planning session for the next year. I began my morning early and rushed, feeling the pressure of a long day of planning.

I'm ashamed to admit that I was even tempted to skip my devotions this morning to give me a little more time in getting some last minute things prepared.

Thankfully, I didn't and as a result, the song that came up on my devotional play list was an instrumental (no words). It was a beautiful old hymn about the love of God. As I slowed down enough to focus on it, I sensed that still, small voice of my Father God reminding me to be still and be thankful, i.e. get the right perspective.

Here I am with my dearly loved wife, surrounded by beautiful mountains getting ready to work on something that truly matters with a God-called staff that shares my burden. Yes, life is not bad after all!

Maybe as you are reading this it is your turn to be a little overwhelmed by life. Why not try a little "being still" and "being thankful." It brings a new perspective, I know!

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:15

WEDNESDAY, October 21, 2009

Yesterday I encouraged you to "be still and be thankful." I still encourage you to do that; however, you can count on it, there will invariably follow the question: "*What needs to be done today?*"

Calvin Miller, in his excellent book *Once Upon a Tree* made this statement:

☐ "*Merely looking is a grave sin when more than looking is required.*"

God is a god of action. He has not sequestered himself away in splendid isolation and contemplation. He reaches out. He touches. He moves. He speaks. He gets involved. He cares.

We see this in the life of Jesus. He could have left the human race lost and unredeemed; but He chose to get involved. He touched the untouchable, the sick, the down-and-out, the children...even the dead. He fed the hungry, defended the weak and the oppressed. He spoke to the outcast, the common man and the sinner. He even gave his life. Yes, God is a god of action.

Truly, the life of Jesus teaches us that merely looking is a grave sin when more than looking is required. Today I wonder: What do you and I need to do? It is a question that begs answering.

SCRIPTURE: I Samuel 2:2-4

THURSDAY: October 22, 2009

I'd like you to read the following quote carefully...let it sink in.

☐ "*Efficiency is getting the job done right. Effectiveness is getting the right job done. Excellence is getting the right job done well.*" _Zig Ziglar

I have in mind the recent visit of Doyle Dyches to our church. No matter what you may think about his style of music, even the most casual observer would have to admit that he is a master at his craft. He is an example of someone who has achieved excellence, i.e. getting the right job done well.

My point in mentioning this today is to remind you that you also are a master at something. God created you for a divine purpose and as you fulfill that purpose (getting the right job done well) your life will have an impact and you will have the peace of knowing that you are fulfilling your purpose and destiny in life.

Another thing, do not measure your success by what society labels success. We live in a society that pays a professional athletic thirty million dollars and a professional school teacher thirty thousand. That ought to tell you that you can't trust public opinion. Measure the success of your life by using eternal values. In the light of eternity, we will be shocked at who the real heroes are...and if you will be faithful at your work, you will be one of them.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:29