

Pk's Perspectives... Observations over a Happy Meal

Several years ago I experienced a most extraordinary moment of insight into the perspective a follower of Christ should possess during his or her journey on planet earth. This took place in a McDonald's restaurant. I had just placed my order, stepped back from the counter to wait on my food, and was thumbing through my newspaper to help pass the time. I looked up just as a mother and her young son entered the establishment.

Let me tell you, this kid's smile stretched from ear to ear and his eyes were bright, alert, expectant. He was excited to be at McDonald's! He stood quietly and obediently while his mom ordered lunch but the whole time he was looking around expectantly, as if it were his first time eating at McDonald's. My order was eventually served up so I collected my food and found a seat that would enable me to observe this wide-eyed kid. Pretty soon, mom and child were finding their way to a table. While the child's mom unpacked her son's Happy Meal, the little boy sat in his seat and continued to do the same thing he had been doing while in the ordering line – soaking up the sights, sounds, and smells. Smiling the entire time (he even offered me one of those beautiful smiles when he caught me watching!), he took inventory of the Happy Meal contents laid out in front of him, briefly played with the toy, and then began eating his hamburger.

Now up to this point I had no idea that the Lord was setting me up for one of His “take notes this is a teaching moment in your life” experiences. I was simply enjoying this kid's enthusiasm. And this is what the child did: he turned sideways in his chair so he could see out the window, feet dangling above the floor, and methodically consumed his burger while gazing at his future destination – the McDonald's playground! He averted his gaze only when necessary, like to respond to his mom or take a drink of his soda or grab another French fry. But his attention would quickly return to the playground. He was faithfully observing the eating ritual because it was requisite to reaching the hallowed arena of the playground.

The Holy Spirit showed me that I needed to approach my earth life/eternal life the same way the kid was handling McDonald's restaurant/McDonald's playground. You see, the kid didn't whine about the toy in his Happy Meal or argue with his mom about how many bites he had to take or throw a tantrum because he couldn't go straight to the playground. Somehow this child understood that he had to take care of his business inside McDonald's before he could experience the joy of entering the McDonald's playground. So that's what he did while always keeping his eye on the true prize.

Friend, our pilgrimage through this life is like the inside of McDonald's. We're here for a purpose and we need to take care of our business while also guarding against being encumbered by the things of the world. Remember: we're just passing through to the playground. The contents of our Happy Meal (our life's circumstances) shouldn't arbitrate our sense of joy or contentment. We need to shift our seating (our perspective) so that we're constantly looking out the window while dealing with the issues of life in order to be reminded that we'll attain the true prize shortly. The Bible tells us to “set our mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” So let's eat our Happy Meals with graceful gratitude and soak up the experiences of life with joy, knowing the playground is just beyond the door. Cya in Sunday School & Worship, PK.