

Pk's Perspectives ... Sowing Seeds

I'm all about soaking up some divine moments...those "stop-the-tape" instances when God delivers a load of encouragement or a morale-boosting shot of stimulation or a gentle prodding to keep on keeping on or a freeing moment of clarification. It's no different with pastors than it is with educators or parents or business owners or coaches: there are seasons of wondering if anyone is listening; if any of the teaching/training/coaching is taking root in a heart or mind. This past Sunday morning I walked right into one of those perfectly timed (I didn't even know I needed it!), perfectly placed divine moments!

People were starting to arrive for the 8:30 service. For those of you who do not regularly attend the first service on Sundays, I should tell you that the great majority of our early service people arrive in one ginormous wave...usually sometime between 8:30 and 8:40. No lie. There are mornings when at 8:30 the Fellowship Hall will maybe be 1/3 full but by 8:40 we will be bringing chairs out of the closet for extra seating. True story. Anyhow, about 8:25 I'm stalking the aisles, speaking to the scattered people seated around the Fellowship Hall, and I make my way to a gaggle of folks seated near the front of the room. I'm speaking to one family in particular and I noticed the wife/mother kept glancing back to where people were now beginning to stream into the room. She would look at/listen/respond to me...then steal a glance at the incoming tide of humanity. She was in no way being rude or disrespectful but it was obvious to me that her attention was divided.

Then it happened. The divine moment that made my insides dance. She glanced again towards the back and then exclaimed to her husband, "There they are!" and immediately she got up and went back to greet the people she had been expecting would arrive. In the process of getting up and heading back to welcome these individuals that she had clearly been anticipating would appear, she offered this quick explanation, "That's so and so...we invited them to come today!" Boom. Divine moment. Instant encouragement...instant joy. This couple had been sowing seeds, inviting friends to church, building relationships, and part of their joy in attending church was tied to the anticipation (and in this case fulfillment) that the people they had invited would show up.

Bringing people to Jesus. Bringing people back to Jesus. Asking people to share in the intimate fellowship of a Sunday School class or to share in the meaningful moments of a worship service would seem to be the natural response of anyone who has experienced the intimacy of a personal relationship with Jesus. Attending church with an underlying hope and expectation that someone you have been inviting will show up and share the worship experience adds a level of spiritual energy and excitement that is unique.

Think about it this way. You possess something that is priceless (a personal relationship with God through Jesus) but this possession is different from all the other valuable things in your life. Humans tend to hoard, conceal, and lock-up their valuables so as not to lose any of them. The priceless gift of salvation in Jesus Christ is the one valuable possession of yours that actually increases in value the more you share it! The priceless gift of intimate fellowship with other believers only becomes richer when you invite new friends to share it!

Has it been a while since you showed up on Sunday morning excited - expectantly looking for that person(s) you have loved on, reached out to, and invited to share the fellowship of the Body of Christ? Sow some seeds!! Cya in Sunday School & Worship, PK.