**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, July 24, 2020**

Good afternoon!

I called to place a food order not long ago and when the person answered the phone before I could say a word she said, “Can you please hold for a minute” click and then all I heard was music! Over 4 minutes later I hung up and called back. The same person answered and began to say the same thing, but I interrupted her by saying, listen I already waited my minute plus 3 more; it’s my turn Gabeesh! (Italian slang for do you understand!). She paused and said, OK I’m sorry what can I get you! Listen I know that I am from New York but a NY minute is the same length of time as a South Carolina minute! The problem isn’t the type of minute, it’s the type of person waiting on that minute! If you are like me, I struggle with waiting, patience, and not being in a hurry! I called my cable company the other day to ask a question and waited for 40 minutes on hold before I finally hung up! The whole time I was waiting the recording was saying “your call is very important to us.” Really? A few weeks ago, I was traveling down the road in a lot of traffic. I heard an ambulance coming up behind me so I pulled over as did the rest of the drivers. As the ambulance was passing by, I actually thought, maybe I’ll pull in behind him and make up for lost time!

Learning to wait is not easy! Dealing with frustration and patience is a challenge at times! My daughter Allison went into the Army over three weeks ago and we have only gotten one 15 second call saying I’m here and OK. I go to the mailbox every day looking for our first letter! My daughter Brooke moved into a new house and due to the virus, we haven’t been able to travel there to see it yet! As life goes on and COVID continues to press us, learning to wait and be patient can be more than a chore, but a real challenge!

However, patience is a state of mind, not a wait in line! It’s not how long you sit in traffic; it’s learning to be content while in traffic! It’s getting caught at the light and saying, hey look at that, I’m first in line! It’s showing your child how to do the math problem for the third time with the same fervor as the first time. It’s knowing that your kids are going to be doing school virtually while still being at home all day and being at peace with it. It’s having to continue to do all of this social distancing and masks and everything else and still trusting God through it all. I hear people saying, I am so over this virus situation! Aren’t we all? No one said that patience was easy!

In Psalm 23:2-3 David tells us that something that we need to know about the Shepherd. There are times when “He makes us lie down in green pastures; He leads us beside quiet waters. He restores my soul.” In our situation in life right now, with all that is upon us, it seems that He is MAKING us lie down and be patient. At times when we have had enough and are ready to go go go, the Shepherd may make us pause whether we want to or not! Allowing the Shepherd of the sheep to have His way is the key!

Sheep are frequently alarmed and actually will run over each other racing away when they are startled, impatient, or not wanting to wait on the Shepherd! The Shepherd corrects the problem. He catches up with them and gently, yet firmly forces them to lie down and feed quietly on the grass beneath their feet. We can’t miss this!

We live in an aspirin age. I woke up this morning with a major headache. I took some Advil. After 15 minutes I still had the pain! I said to myself, what’s taking so long! Now we hear about the coming vaccine. It may be coming sooner than they predicted. OK when? Will it work? Will life be back to normal? Our world is hectic, hurried, and harassed by impatience and frustration is the result. Please listen, don’t miss the Shepherd in all this! Pause with patience and He will restore your soul! Own it! Permit it! Be OK with it! Accept it! The result? “He guides me in the paths of righteousness.”

Psalm 46:10 may say it best “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Have a relaxing weekend, Gabeesh?

Mike