**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, November 20, 2020**

Good afternoon!

When my daughter Brooke moved to Fairfax Virginia to move in with her friend Tara and start a new job, it was a big move. We were living in Ohio at the time and Virginia was pretty far off! Besides, at about 20 years old, this was her first big move out on her own. I still remember her asking me to help her pack up her room including disassembling her bed. She said dad, I have the screwdrivers I need, I just need the help. When I asked her what screwdrivers she had, she said I have a plus + and a minus -! I said you mean a Phillips head and a straight slot screwdriver? Well, yea that’s what I call them. Dads get concerned when they hear things like this, believe me! And now you are going out on your own a few states away?

A few months later, one evening Brooke called in a panic. I put the phone on speaker so both Margie and I could hear the call. Before we could say a word, she blurted out, my apartment is on fire and I am having to evacuate immediately! In shock, we said go go go! She quickly added, oh no, I can see the flames on my back-porch and....... suddenly the phone went dead! The line was interrupted in some way and we only feared the worst! It was almost 30 minutes later when we heard back from her! She was now outside on someone else’s cell phone. We could hear the fire engines in the background. Talk about having both your heart in your throat and being frozen and not being able to think or move for 30 minutes! We traveled to Virginia to be with our daughter and to help her out. She ended up moving back to Ohio for the next few years! In the end, the whole experience although traumatic was a bonding experience for our family!

Life is full of major interruptions! Some are easy, some are devastating and life-changing! Some may make you doubt if God is present and others may cause you to question your faith! However, rather than looking at them from inconveniences to heartbreak, we need to see them as opportunities and doorways to being used by God and growing closer to God! You see we are the most moldable when we are the most vulnerable! There are never any times when life’s interruptions take place that we need to be frozen, stuck, with our heart in our throats waiting, or unable to move until we hear back from Him. God is constantly engaged in our lives, there is no downtime for Him!

Like in my last post about being interrupted by God, today's lesson is about learning how to be productive when our lives are interrupted in small and big ways! Learning to lean on Him when life gets really difficult and hard to bear. When the fire in our living spaces is coming through the door, or when you are in communication with God and He seems to be suddenly disconnected! How do I become productive at being interrupted in life!

Two Points:

1. Learn that God is at work at all times around us, we need to take notice. “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working.” John 5:17. You see God’s interruptions are not pauses in His work, they are part of His ongoing work. He tells us in Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Don’t go into shut down mode outside of church services when you re-engage the world. Your Christianity is never off the clock, God is at work 24/7 and we are in service the same. God is always present and at work, let’s take notice and let Him involve you!

2. Learn to follow Jesus and trust Him on a day to day, moment to moment basis. “And one of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came, and upon seeing Him, fell at His feet and pleaded with Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.” Mark 5:21-22. In this story, Jesus is on His way to heal this young girl and He allows Himself to be interrupted by a woman who touches the bottom of His garment and is healed. As Jesus begins a conversation with the woman you can only imagine Jairus checking his watch and tapping his foot as he knows that time is of the essence to get the Healer to his daughter’s side. In the interim period, Jairus gets word that his little girl has died and I am sure his heart sank with sorrow. But Jesus overhearing the news reassures him that all will be well despite the loss. Jesus raises the young girl back to life as He will each of us someday, young and old who trust in Him. All those from the unborn innocent to those who put their faith and trust in Him will be with Him in glory forever and ever amen! As hard as it may seem, we need to stop needing our lives to be all mapped out our way. Instead, we need to be looking for God’s way, learning to walk with Him daily, moment to moment, trusting in Him every step of the way! If you ever feel like you have been disconnected from God, remember there are times when God may be silent but He is never absent!

Have a great weekend,

Mike