**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, February 26, 2021**

Thought of The Day

Just Too Good To Pass Up

Have you ever had something just too good to pass up? Maybe it was a car that you wanted, a favorite meal on the menu, a special event you wanted to attend, or maybe like me, the perfect girl that you met. When I first saw Margie, who is now my wife, we were in the seventh grade. For me, it was love at first sight! She was just too good to pass up! Because we were young, things didn’t last but for me, there would never be another. After high school, I went into the military. I was gone for a number of years but could never get Margie off my mind. When I got home from the service, I heard that she was engaged to be married to a guy that she was dating for a number of years. I thought, I won’t let her pass me by, she is just too good to pass up! I went to her house unannounced and knocked on the door. Margie answered it and invited me in. Her fiancée was there as well sitting at the end of the couch. I walked in and sat down right between the two of them, speaking to Margie. He never said a word. Long story short, they broke up and we got married! Do you know why? Three reasons. 1. I wasn’t going to let her pass me by without trying. 2. It’s not over until the cake is cut! 3. I was just too good for her to pass up! Kidding.

In Luke 18 &19 we find two people who realized that Jesus was just too good to pass up, and they decided to do something about it! They were not going to settle for the way things were and just continue to jump through the hoops that life’s path had put them on. Let me ask you a question. Ever feel like you are just going through the motions in your life, on autopilot, and just settling for less rather than the best? It can happen in a marriage that started off great but soon evolved into a mundane routine. Possibly a job that began with excitement and now you are just going through the motions for a needed paycheck. In fact, going through the motions can happen with friendships, relationships, families, and even with your Christian life. Maybe you are still showing up for church services but your heart hasn’t made the trip for a long while.

If you want to break the cycle, two things are needed.

1. An attitude of persistent expectation. In Luke 18:35-43, we meet a blind beggar named Bartimaeus who is told that “Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” The blind man realizes the Jesus is the promised one of God and was not going to let Him pass him by without trying to ask for His help. “And those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more.” Then it happened, “Jesus stopped.” Jesus asked the man, “What do you want me to do for you? And he said, Lord, I want to receive my sight.” This man knew he was miserable, helpless, handicapped, and in need of help. In Mark’s account, we read that when Jesus stopped, the man “casting aside his cloak... jumped up and came to Jesus.” Mark 10:50. He responded with urgency because hesitation can breed complete refusal! How long have you talked about reading your bible cover to cover, starting a devotional with your kids, spending more time in prayer? We say to ourselves that the longer we put things off the harder it is to actually do them. Absolutely right! And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” Notice that the man didn’t ask for a walking stick or a seeing-eye dog. He was not satisfied to settle for anything less than full vision and the Lord rewarded him with complete recovery! Don’t just settle for the sidelines of your Christian life, watching Jesus pass you by. Break the cycle claim the victory!

2. An attitude of humility and faith in spite of inadequacies. In Luke 19:1-10 we meet Zacchaeus “a chief tax-gatherer, and he was rich. And he was trying to see who Jesus was, and he was small in stature. And he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for he was about to pass through that way.” Like the blind man he wanted to see Jesus as He was passing by. In the story “when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” Zacchaeus then “received Him gladly.” Wow, can you believe it! You see despite his wealth, power, and position in life, he realized his deep inadequacies, spiritually speaking. God chooses the inadequate! We are not saved because of our perfection but despite our imperfection. We are not on the road to glory because of our adequacy but despite our inadequacy! Zacchaeus recognized his flawed condition and had the humility and faith to want what’s better. Jesus! You see Jesus chooses us just the way we are, with all of our flaws, imperfections, and inadequacies. The story ends with Jesus saying, “Today salvation has come to this house.” Zacchaeus knew that Jesus was just too good to pass up. Do you? Break the cycle claim the victory. Listen, friends, like me showing up at Margie’s house, it just takes some boldness to knock on the door. When you do, I am sure Jesus will invite you in! In the end, you just might gain a relationship that you always wanted!

Two questions:

1. As a Christian, have you ever felt like you are just going through the motions in your Christian walk, missed Jesus, or somehow let Him pass you by? If so, how so, and what happened to bring this about? What can you do today to recapture that initial excitement?

2. Have you ever felt like you have taken your salvation or your relationship with Jesus for granted? What should you be doing daily to fully appreciate Jesus in your life and realize that He is just too good to pass up?