



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

Man! Have you ever had “one of THOSE days”!?!? I know that there are various clichés to express those times like; “got up on the wrong side of the bed” “Scratched the wrong itch” “Can’t win for losing” and a host of others. The simple fact is, we are going to have a bad day every once in a while where it just seems as though the odds are stacked against us. Those kinds of days don’t have to be a major problem at all. Christian author and pastor, Chuck Swindoll stated in his book “Attitude” that “the quality of your life is ten percent of what happens to you and ninety percent of how you react to it”. How true! I love the following story and I hope you’ll take it to heart too:

“I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children.. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.

Funny thing is," he smiled," when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.”

Now that is a great attitude!! An attitude that shows the loving heart of a father and husband who puts his family before his business.

Chuck Swindoll also stated in his book, “Three Steps Forward...Two Steps Back” that “many of life’s greatest opportunities are cleverly disguised as impossible situations”. Often we let a terrific opportunity slide right by us because we view the circumstances emotionally rather than logically. An “opportunity” is not necessarily something that has the potential to line our pockets. We have a wealth of opportunities to invest in others through words of kindness, loving concern, compassion, mercy, and patience. Allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us and the circumstances, we can be a blessing to everyone we encounter.

Sure, it's a hard pill to swallow when someone is rude to us or acts indifferent to our very existence but always remember this, "Rudeness is a weak person's imitation of strength"...Ding!....Ding...Ding! Opportunity knocks!! The bell is ringing! Here is an opportunity to make their day a little bit brighter. Have compassion and ask if that person is having a bad day and if there is anything you might pray for in their regard. You might be surprised at the ministry opportunity that presents its self. That very person might have no one at all that they can talk to, but all of a sudden God places you there to be an ear to listen. You don't have to be pastor or psychologist to just listen. You may be uniquely qualified to identify with their specific problem. Your past experience may have encountered the very same situation that he or she is dealing with. If God put you in their path, He will provide the wisdom to impart to them. "Where God guides, He provides"...every time!

In Colossians 3:12-16 we are encourage as follows:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.....

And that's....The Gospel Truth!!

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