

One More Day August 22, 2005

GETHSEMANE

MATHEW 26:36-39

THEN JESUS WENT WITH HIS DISCIPLES TO A PLACE CALLED GETHSEMANE, AND SAID TO THEM, "SIT HERE WHILE I GO OVER THERE AND PRAY." HE TOOK PETER AND THE TWO SONS OF ZEBEDEE ALONG WITH HIM, AND HE BEGAN TO BE SORROWFUL AND TROUBLED. THEN HE SAID TO THEM, "MY SOUL IS OVERWHELMED WITH SORROW TO THE POINT OF DEATH. STAY HERE AND KEEP WATCH WITH ME." GOING A LITTLE FARTHER, HE FELL WITH HIS FACE TO THE GROUND AND PRAYED, "MY FATHER, IF IT IS POSSIBLE, MAY THIS CUP BE TAKEN FROM ME. YET, NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL."

OK, YOUR SOUND ASLEEP AND ALL OF THE SUDDEN YOU GET A TAP ON YOUR SHOULDER AT ABOUT 4:00 am. YOU ROLL OVER AND SAY, "WHO IS THERE, AND IT BETTER BE GOOD." HEY BILLY BOB, IT IS ME, GOD. I AM SORRY TO INFORM YOU, BUT I AM HERE TO SAY THAT YOU ONLY HAVE ONE MORE DAY TO LIVE.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO? ROLL BACK OVER AND FALL ASLEEP, OR WOULD YOU SPRING OUT OF BED AND FALL TO YOUR KNEES AND CRY OUT TO GOD?

JESUS, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, WAS BASICALLY CONFRONTED WITH ALMOST THIS EXACT SITUATION. THE SON OF GOD, RIGHT BEFORE HE WAS GOING TO BE CAPTURED BY THE ROMAN SOLDIERS TO BE CARRIED OFF AND CRUCIFIED ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS, WENT OFF TO A QUIET PLACE AND PRAYED. IF THAT DOESN'T BRING TEARS TO YOUR EYES NOTHING WILL. JESUS WASN'T JUST PRAYING TO HIS FATHER FOR HIMSELF, BUT FOR ALL WHO BELIEVED IN HIM.

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS FIRST DIAGNOSED BY A DOCTOR THAT I HAD ALS. I IMMEDIATELY WENT HOME AND FELL ON MY KNEES AND CRIED OUT TO GOD. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SAID, ALL I COULD FEEL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE WAS BEING TOTALLY HELPLESS AND COMPLETELY IN THE HANDS OF GOD. ALTHOUGH, GOD DIDN'T TELL ME I HAD ONE MORE DAY, IT SURE FELT AS IF HE DID. OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS I HAVE TRIED TO LIVE AS IF I ONLY HAD ONE MORE DAY, BECAUSE TRULY I AM ON THE EDGE OF DEATH DAILY. I GET UP EVERY MORNING AND THANK GOD FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS HE HAS PROVIDED ME AND THEN I PRAY FOR MY FAMILY AND OTHERS WHO HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS THAT GOD HAS LAID ON MY HEART. BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY I PRAY SEEKING HIS PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR MY LIFE THAT DAY AND THAT HIS WILL BE DONE. WHAT'S AMAZING THROUGH THIS ON GOING BATTLE WITH ALS, IS BEFORE WHEN I WAS PERFECTLY HEALTHY I ONLY PRAYED AND CALLED ON GOD WHEN MY FAMILY OR I WAS IN NEED. PRETTY SELFISH WASN'T IT! OH, HOW THINGS CHANGE WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE "ONE MORE DAY."

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED WHEN YOU THINK OR TRULY ONLY HAVE "ONE MORE DAY" IN YOUR LIFE, IS WHAT MATTERS MOST IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS AND YOUR FAMILY. ALL OF A SUDDEN YOUR JOB, MONEY, HOUSE AND POSSESSIONS YOU OWN HAVE VERY LITTLE MEANING OR VALUE. BUT CRYING OUT TO GOD, HUGGING YOUR KIDS, WIFE AND BEING WITH YOUR FAMILY DOMINATE YOUR THOUGHTS TWENTY FOUR HOURS A DAY SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. THOSE THINGS YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED I PROMISE YOU ARE PRICELESS.

I GET THIS QUESTION ASKED TO ME A LOT. WHY DO YOU KEEP PUSHING ON WANTING TO LIVE LIKE THIS? I OFTEN TIMES THINK ABOUT THIS VERY SAME QUESTION MYSELF. THE ANSWER I CAN GIVE IS GOD TRULY USES YOU WHEN YOUR AT THE WEAKEST POINT. ALMOST TO THE POINT WHEN YOU THINK ANOTHER STEP OR BREATH IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND IN MY CASE JUST ONE MORE BLINK OF THE EYE, THAT IS WHEN GOD STEPS IN USES YOU TO YOUR FULLEST SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL.

WHEN PAUL WROTE THESE WORDS IN 2 CORINTHIANS 12:10 FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG." HE WAS CERTAINLY SPEAKING THE TRUTH!

IF I COULD TEACH EVERYONE ONE LESSON FROM THIS LENGTHY FIGHT WITH LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE IT WOULD BE THIS, "LIVE YOUR LIFE LIKE YOU HAVE "ONE MORE DAY" AND TELL YOUR FAMILY HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM EVERYDAY." AND FALLING ON YOUR KNEES IN FRONT OF GOD ISN'T A WEAKNESS, BUT RATHER A STRENGTH.

GOD BLESS,
KEITH LECLAIR