

GETTING TOGETHER

It has been several weeks since the film I was asked to play a supporting role in won first place. I have been settling back into my normal job as a pastor ever since just staying patient until my next role comes along. Last week one of my co-stars in the film reached out to see if I would like to go for coffee with him. Thinking this is naturally what actors do during a break in filming I said yes.

We were originally going to meet for coffee last Wednesday, but I received a message during the day that he had to reschedule. Friday was the next available day on our schedules. On Friday morning I received a message from him that he was at the hospital and was unsure if we could meet. Around noon he messaged me again and said he was home from the hospital now and would like to still get together but he did not have access to a car. I had a meeting already arranged for 1:45 on Friday afternoon so I let him know I would come pick him up sometime after 3 when it was over.

Naturally we two actors ended up at Tim Hortons for our coffee and discussion. Over the next hour we talked about a variety of topics including our upcoming plans for the summer and fall. I had to cut our conversation off after that hour because one of my parishioners was trying to reach me by phone. Remember, I still need to keep my day job because my acting career is still relatively new. When I dropped my fellow co-star off at his home, we agreed that we should make plans to get together again either at the end of the summer before he heads off to university in the fall or when he comes home for Christmas holidays.

This experience from last week got me thinking about how we often make comments to somebody about getting together for coffee and a visit. While our intentions are often sincere when we make this promise we do not always follow through. I remember a promise someone I am related to made to a certain individual that he would stop by for a visit. About two years after my relative made the promise I happened to be at an event standing beside both of these individuals. I can still vividly remember the other man saying to my relative, "I am still waiting for you to come visit me just like you promised." Obviously, this man had not forgotten about getting together, but my relative had. Perhaps we have all been guilty of making the same mistake of not following through to get together with somebody as promised.

Naturally this got me thinking about how God desires to get together with us. We see this desire on God's part in the Garden of Eden as He walked about while Adam and Eve were still residing there. Even after the "fall" occurred,

God's desire to get together with us did not change. Moses was privileged to get together with God as seen in **Exodus 33:11:**

Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

Friendship with God was a true privilege and blessing for Moses.

Jesus shared in **John 15:14-16** His desire to get together and be friends:

You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me, I chose you.

Because Jesus is our Lord and Master He could have easily kept us as His servants, but instead He calls us His friends. Jesus made the first move to invite us to be His friends and has proven His love for us by dying for our sins and inviting us to live with Him forever.

We know Moses made the choice to get together with God in the Tent of Meeting and was blessed by doing so, but are we following in this example when it comes to our friendship with Jesus? Just as we do not always follow through on our promises to get together with others, perhaps we are making this same mistake when it comes to Jesus. Let's make sure we do not do this because there is no more important relationship in our lives than the one we have with Jesus. One of the best ways I think we can avoid this mistake is by remembering the hymn "Take Time to Be Holy." The first verse of this hymn is:

Take time to be holy, speak oft' with thy Lord; abide in Him always, and feed on His word; Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Reminding ourselves of this hymn each day will be all the encouragement we need to make the effort to get together with Jesus at some point in our day.

I am glad it worked out that I could get together with my fellow co-star. My daughter heard from both of us how much we enjoyed getting together. I am hoping the next time I get together with him that we can talk about our next acting roles. What would be even better is if we could be in the same film again. Here is hoping.

Keep Safe and God Bless,

Pastor Dean