

Pastor's Corner

Did You Pick Up Your Gift Today?

August 2, 2006

Dear Friend,

The other day I was at the airport; and as I was walking by the baggage claim area, there was one section where all the long, circular baggage carousels were empty. Nobody was around, and all the luggage was claimed. As I was leaving the area, something caught my eye. On one of the carousels was a nice, well-built white box. I stopped and went over to look at it, and found a name written on the side.



It made me start thinking. Here was a package for someone that was unclaimed. It was available, it was here, but someone had not claimed it. Did they forget? Were they unaware? Perhaps they missed their flight, and they were somewhere else and the package made it to the pickup point. I wondered what was in it. It didn't look like luggage as such; in fact, it looked like it could have been a gift. Something valuable. As I left the airport, that unclaimed package made me think of other unclaimed packages. Most that usually go unclaimed each day.

You see, one of the most valuable gifts one can receive is quality time. Want to make your husband happy? Spend some time with him, doing what he likes to do. Want to make your grandmother happy? Call her up and spend the day with her. And the same for your kids. Want to put a smile on their face? Clear your calendar, and go and do stuff with them. Spend some quality time with them.

Every single day, God has a package for you. It's a very nice, well-wrapped little package, made just for you. It has your name on it. You see, it's quality time that He wants to you have with you. But sometimes we forget, or we're too busy, or we try to put it off for the weekend; and each day there's a little package that's not been picked up, and there's a Person who left that package that is disappointed that His little love gift was not claimed.

When we look in the Bible, we find the people who did great things for God would spend time with Him each day. David tells us, "In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." And the good news was that God was waiting each morning to meet with him! It was the habit of Daniel to pray to God three times a day—morning, noon, and at night. He wouldn't stop that habit, even when the emperor enacted a death decree for anyone found praying to the God of heaven. He realized that prayer wasn't just asking God for something; it was a time to communicate with the King of the universe. A special gift indeed.

Have you stopped to pick up your gift, your very own special gift from God today? Just spend 15 minutes talking to Him and listening. Keep your mind focused on Him; and if you start thinking about the other stuff that frequently crowds into your mind, pull your thoughts back to God. Only fifteen minutes in the morning, and it's not your obligation to God; it's His gift to you!

*A moment in the morning—a moment, if no more—
Is better than an hour when the trying day is o'er.*

Make it an awesome day with God; and remember, I'm praying for you!

Mark