

While reading this week's scripture, it reminded me of a friend of mine, when I first went down to Kansas city. He was a server with me at Red Lobster and he was a very unique individual. He came in every shift knowing exactly how much money he would need to make that day, so he would always walk up to me and the first thing he would say is, "How much you making?" "Well, it is hard to say. How about you?" He would say he was going to make this much money because he was going to go buy something he wanted. And that is how he treated each shift. He would end each one knowing how much he was going to make because he was going to buy something with him. Gave him a goal; gave him a purpose. And that is how he treated it. He was the best server I have ever seen up until he hit that goal and then as soon as he hit that goal, he was the worst server I have ever seen because he didn't care any more. He got to the point he needed to be and he was done. He comes in one Friday night and he just looked a mess. He wasn't talking to anybody. He was just running, doing everything he could and I stopped in and asked, "What's the goal for tonight?" He was like, "I don't have time to talk." I am like okay what is going on. I have to make this amount of money. And I looked at him and I don't remember what the amount was, but I know it was a ridiculous number. Because I looked at him and I said, "That's Mother's Day money. That's not random Friday night money. You aren't going to make it." He is like, "Well I have to. I have to. I don't have a choice. I am only working tonight, I don't have a choice." I am like, "You are not going to make it." And he didn't. He wasn't even close.

So Saturday morning I get to work and he's there. And I am like, "I thought you were gone this week." He was like, "I told you I have to make this much money and I didn't.. I am like, "So you need to make this much more." And he is like, "No, I now have to make this much." And whatever it was, it was a huge number. To put into perspective, Mother's Day, you made your rent for the month working that one day. Friday you made enough to buy dinner, so there is a huge gap here. He was making cuts; he was making deals. He was doing everything he could to get through this shift. He ended up working from opening, straight through to close with no break. And I met him out that night. I was like did you make it and he was like no. So he started making calls and making deals. And so I asked him, "What did you do, that you need this much money for that you are that worried about."

And we talked about it. He made one dumb decision. One really bad decision that just kept compounding on itself. It kept going over and over and it just kept getting bigger and bigger. He had always worried about what was flashy, what was better, what was new, what was going to make him look better than everybody else. What was going to get him to stand out. He never worried about important things like his kid, his wife. He didn't worry about any of that. He didn't worry about anything that was important aside from money. And he made this one bad decision that just kept ruining his life. His wife left him. She took their son. He lost custody of his son. He lost all of these things. And he didn't know what to do. He didn't know how to get back on track because he had been doing this for so long, he didn't know what to do.

It's like today's scripture reading. Jesus is telling us not to worry about the monetary things, worry about the Godly things. He is a perfect example. He had all these trinkets and things that he could do nothing with, but at the end of the night, he is sitting alone with me trying to figure out what he can do to fix his life. He wanted to figure out a way to fix it. He wanted to find a way to do it. And we all do that, right? We all come across some point that we try to figure out how we can fix our lives. How we can fix what is going on. If we just take one day like

Jesus says, focus on today. Today is the day. Not tomorrow or next week, today is the day we need to take care. They will take care of themselves. If we take today and we focus on just one thing that will bring us closer to God, then tomorrow, we can add another thing to it. And it will get us a little closer. And it doesn't have to be anything big. It doesn't have to be big at all.

Think back to when we were getting over covid. Each day was a new challenge. Each day was a new opportunity. But we made it through. We were not worried about what was going to happen next, we were worried about today. Each day God blesses us when we wake up in the morning. Each day He blesses us when we go to bed at night. We know that his covenant is there protecting us. But it isn't only protecting us, it is protecting everybody.

A big part of the stewardship that we have isn't just fixing what is in these walls. It isn't just about giving it to everybody here. It is about sharing it. If we spent a part of each day talking to someone we don't normally talk to. If we just reach out, just to say hi, that can make a huge difference in that person's life each day.

I called one of my friends the other day. I hadn't heard from him in a few months, so I just reached out. And he was like hey I don't got time to talk. He was like no he was busy. I said that he wasn't that busy so we needed to talk. And I knew that he was hiding something because he normally isn't like that. Normally he is very bubbly and outgoing and bright. And that day he was not. And we talked. He lost his job that day. He didn't know where he was going to go next. He didn't know what he was going to do, and he was thinking about ending it. He was thinking I am done. I don't have anything to live for right now. And we talked for an hour. And at the end of it, he had calmed down. He is okay. That one little phone call, that one call, that one little reaching out, stopped this person from having a really bad day and affecting everybody around him. And sometimes okay days are good enough. It doesn't have to be bright and glamorous. And an okay day can get us through. And an okay day can add to another day, and another day, and another. And that is what is important. Taking those days, each of those days, and giving it to God, and accepting what he is trying to tell us. Accepting what he is trying to say, and it isn't enough for us to just sit and hold on. It's for us to share. It's for us to not only know how much God loves us, but also to let others know how much God loves them. How much God is there for their lives and if they would take a second, not even five minutes to look around to see what little things God might have done for them that day. And the next day they are going to see more. And the next day, they are going to see even more.

Everybody thinks about what is going to happen next, what is going to come to them next. We don't always think about what is happening today. But one thing that we don't think about what is happening today and we don't think about what is happening next is that we don't think about what is going to happen to the church. We worry about the church, we worry about religion on Sunday and the rest of the week, we don't really think about it at all. I mean obviously I do, but most people don't. Before I came here, before I came back, church, God, religion was meant for Sunday. It wasn't meant for the rest of the week. But it is. It is meant for every day. It's not just a Sunday situation. People will tell you they know God; they found God. But then you asked what they did with God on Tuesday and that is what you are going to hear, nothing. But if we take that little bit. We remember how much God influences each day of our lives. If we remind other people how much God influences our life, we are not worrying about the money or the toys or how flashy we look to everyone else, everyone else is going to be right there with us. We don't have to worry about the mistakes that we have made that we are going

to lose things or lose people because we have taken each day and we have made it for God. Not just for us, but for everyone we have cared about. Even for people we don't know because we never know when that one phone call we are going to need to make is going to happen.