

A Great Day in the Kingdom – 1/17/25

Are you getting enough rest? My Wife, Christie, loves a good nap. While she naps, I watch football. The funny thing is that I dislike naps. Do you remember nap time as a child? That specific portion of my day was absolutely dreaded, growing up.

The funny thing about rest or the lack of rest is, when neglected, the body will eventually shut down, mentally, emotionally and even physically. As I refuse to take naps, there are times when my anatomy will over-rule my will. I wake up and the first quarter has become the third quarter or even the end of the game. God designs us in that specific way.

Years ago, I decided to get my Master of Divinity, while pastoring a church full-time. This was not the smartest decision I had ever made. I had a deal with the security guard at TCU. As long as I did not drink out of the water fountain, the alarm to the library would not activate. I would stay up until morning, writing papers, along with reading more and more books in order to write more and more papers.

One night it was time to drive back to the Waco area. While driving, I remember not understanding where I was or even where I was going. I soon learned that not sleeping for 37 hours could generate that condition. I called my Wife, Christie, and stated, "I think I am close to home, but don't know where I am." I told her I was at a Shell Station. "Why don't you go in and ask the clerk what town you are in?" my Wife asked. I did. The clerk thought at first it was a joke and soon realized I was completely serious. Needless to say, Christie spoke to the clerk and was given directions. To my astonishment, she was insistent that I not drive any longer. After around 14 hours of sleep, Christie drove me back to my truck.

I learned a lesson that afternoon. If we do not rest, our bodies will rest for us. God designed them, and He knows better.

My Father used to tell a story about a Lady who came to him in crisis. She was panic stricken, because on numerous occasions she would fall asleep, while praying each night. My Father listened to her and asked, "Have you ever considered how you honor God, at the end of each day, when you're exhausted you turn to your Heavenly Father?" He then said, "That's God's way of saying, "Sleep my Child." The Lady had never thought of it, in those terms.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

There will come a day when we will never grow weary, because we are eternally with our Savior. As a matter of fact, in this Earthly life we can REST assured that our Savior always has a place for us.

Have a Blessed Week, Church!

Love You All!!!

Pastor Joel