

## Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, July 16, 2016

Dr. Hunter “Patch” Adams has been pushing the envelope on the practice of medicine for the past 45 years. Ever since seeing the movie PATCH ADAMS which was released in 1998, I’ve admired the person and his passion to dramatically change the way medicine is practiced around the world. The semi-biographical film starring Robin Williams was not only a box office hit, but also opened the eyes of the movie-going audience to the potential paradigm shift possible in the doctor/patient relationship. It’s quite simple in Dr. Adams’ eyes. The medical and nursing profession simply needs to treat patients as people rather than symptomatic statistics. If you would like to know more about this remarkable man and his life work, I recommend you get your hands on his book *Gesundheit: Good Health is a Laughing Matter*.

On a personal note, I recently switched chiropractors when I realized the care I had received over a 5-week period had only minimally improved my spinal health! I might have continued on with this doctor had he and his family not taken an extended holiday and referred me to another doctor should I need care during his absence. It was needed and almost immediately I experienced a much greater level of care from this new doctor. Less than two weeks into my new care plan I realized I had run into my own “Patch Adams” prototype. Let me attempt to briefly explain the difference in these two professionals.

The first doctor's approach was very methodical and he probably sees nearly 100 patients in an 8-hour day. My actual time spent with the doctor was less than five minutes per visit after my initial thorough consultation. In time, I also noticed that many other patients were receiving similar short treatments and spent a majority of their time having their backs massaged by automated rollers on one of two tables in a separate room. My thirty minute appointments were somewhat therapeutic, but in time I actually sensed I was being slighted in the care received.

The second doctor’s “Patch Adams” approach was quite different. The fifteen minutes or more spent with this professional who’s been practicing for 47 years was truly “hands on” with marked results in only a few days. My pain has greatly subsided and I hope to be playing golf again very soon! This doctor truly seems to care and has taken a personal interest in my health and continuously encourages me with every treatment. I actually look forward to meeting with him and already consider him a new friend.

He reminds me of my best friend. Yes, I’ve concluded that Jesus was the Patch Adams of his time. I don’t know where Dr. Adams stands in his personal relationship with God, but I would not be surprised to find out that he was influenced early in his life by the Jesus of the Bible. You see, Jesus loved the downcast and the downtrodden and He showed empathy to those in need. Yes, He also overturned the tables in the temple courtyard while showing compassion and healing those who believed in Him. Yet in Matthew 10:32-40 we see the greater calling of Christ as Savior and Lord. We see Jesus not bringing peace to the world but a sword which sets those who follow Him against the ways of this world. I consider this world corrupt and in great need of change. We all need to be more like Jesus!

In retrospect, I realize there are other "Patch Adams" types all around me. My personal physician, my Pastor and my CPA all have these qualities and "By gosh!" I guess I run my own insurance practice along similar lines. Perhaps we'd all be wise to take a hard look at the way we do business and deal with others in general. I personally strive to place the needs of those God puts in my path above my own personal needs. I know He is pleased by such actions and that's the true bottom line!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Matthew 4:23; Matthew 9:26-28; Matthew 10:32-40; Colossians 3:12-15; Galatians 5:22-26

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**Passages to Ponder: Matthew 4:23, 9:26-28, 10:32-40; Colossians 3:12-15; Galatians 5:22-26**

**Matthew 4:23** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

**Matthew 9:26-28** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

<sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

**Matthew 10:32-40** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>32</sup> "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn

"a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

<sup>36</sup> a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

<sup>37</sup> "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me;

anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of

me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of

me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

<sup>40</sup> "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

**Colossians 3:12-15** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

**Galatians 5:22-26** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.