

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES – Saturday, February 14, 2015

Let's start off this discussion taking a cursory glance at Shakespeare's literary work Hamlet. In his soliloquy, "To be, or not to be - that is the question: Whether is nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or to take arms against a sea of troubles..." we see the essence of simply being. For years I've been intrigued with the concept of being versus doing.

Many years ago, my dear friend Jay Carty, founder of *Yes! Ministries*, wrote a short piece that has stuck with me ever since I first read it. In that writing, Jay like most men admitted that he was a doer. His wife Mary challenged him to not focus on doing but on just being! Over the years I've dabbled with the idea of simply being rather than doing. My main source of study has been God's word and I find it fascinating that God referred to Himself to Moses as "I AM" for the purpose of letting the Israelites know Who had sent Moses to free His people. In Exodus 3:14, God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" and then He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you." It appears there's something to this being versus doing attitude. So, in your mind are you a doer?

Jay Carty also published a book on the Beatitudes designed to reach kids for Christ some years back entitled, O. Whillikers in the Hall of Champions. The intended audience may have been young boys and girls dealing with adversity in life, but I know many adults also gleaned much from his creative approach using eight colorful illustrated stories to explain the teachings of Jesus. The term "Blessed are..." starts off nine straight verses as Jesus taught the multitude. (Matthew 5:3-11) Note that Jesus taught us the be-attitudes not the do-attitudes!

Doing is our natural tendency, but I've come to conclude that God is not that concerned with all we do. He's most concerned about our relationship with Him and those He puts around us. It's really about our being not our doing! When we busily go around doing things, we miss out on what God wants of us. It's all about our availability – not our ability. Let's imagine God has the ability to move through this universe greater than the speed of light, while we move along at a snail's pace in comparison. We'd be wise to slow down and realize that we simply need to look around us, experience God's handiwork and His presence and listen to His desires for our lives. We need to stop, look and listen – to be still and know that He is God! (Psalm 46:10)

Here to serve,

Jim Langley

Passages to Ponder: Exodus 3:14; Matthew 5:1-12; John 6:29; I Corinthians 15:10

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Passages to Ponder: Exodus 3:14; Matthew 5:1-12; John 6:29; I Corinthians 15:10

Exodus 3:14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Matthew 5:1-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

The Beatitudes

5 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

⁵ Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.

⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.

⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.

⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 6:29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

1 Corinthians 15:10 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.