

Anybody Who Helps Somebody Helps a Lot of Somebodies

I don't usually dream during my sleeping (at least I don't think I do), but recently I awakened in the morning re-living one. In my dream, I had accepted an invitation to be interviewed for Pastor of an unnamed Church. Upon entering the church doors I was greeted by a lady that wanted to know the Scripture, text and sermon topic for the next Sunday. I awoke stumbling for words. . . .I know that I've heard 100s of outstanding sermons over the past 22 years in Washington Pacific, but I couldn't think of ONE.

Later that morning, I was in the district office on Dayton Street and thinking about the dream (or nightmare?, whichever it was) and was reminded that being a PASTOR has more to do with WHO we are than WHAT we say or preach. I re-read a section from John Maxwell's book.....

"A person fell into a pit and couldn't get out –how others treated that person:

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person came along and said, "Well, it's logical that someone would fall down there. '

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A mathematician calculated how the individual fell into the pit.

A news reporter wanted an exclusive story on the person in the pit.

A fundamentalist said, "You deserve your pit."

A Calvinist said, "If you'd been saved, you'd never fallen into the pit."

An Armenian said, "You were save and still fell into the pit."

A charismatic said, "Just confess that you're not in the pit."

A realist came along and said: "Now that's a pit."

A geologist told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit.

An IRS worker asked if he was paying taxes on this pit.

The county inspector asked if he had a permit to dig the pit.

A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you see my pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

A pessimist said, "Things will get worse."

Jesus, seeing the man, reached down and took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit."
(Encouragement Changes Everything, p. 74-75)

Our delight and responsibility is in providing a "Lift" to everyone –before the many sermons of 'ought to do this.'

We want to do what Jesus would do!

Until next time,

Straight ahead for Jesus!

Hugh L. Smith