

“And I Get To Have a Part In It!”

Observations About Opportunity:

1. Big opportunities rise out of big problems.

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things. By this time it was late in the day, so His disciples came to Him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” - Mark 6:34-36

“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” - Albert Einstein

Problems are... Predictors — of our success or failure by our response

Reminders —that life is complicated, and that unless we have God we’re not going to make it

Opportunities —Great advances birthed in problems

Blessings — to help us to depend upon God

Lessons — to teach us, if we have an open mind to God

Everywhere —no matter where you go you’ll find problems

Messages —like a dashboard light, to alert you that something needs to be fixed

Solvable! —with God in the picture, nothing is impossible

2. Life is not a dress rehearsal. Seize opportunities now!

“But Jesus answered, ‘You give them something to eat.’” - Mark 6:37

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show any human being, let me do it now and not defer it. For I shall not pass this way again.”

- Stephen Grellet

3. Opportunities are seized by those who recognize them, not those in the “right place”.

“They said to Him, ‘That would take eight months of a man’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?’” - Mark 6:37

“I would like to amend the idea of being in the right place at the right time. There are many people who were in the right place but

didn’t know it! You have to recognize when the right place and the right time fuse and take advantage of that opportunity. There are plenty of opportunities out there. You can’t sit back and wait.”

- Ellen Metcalf

4. Opportunities can be lost when our ways are different than God’s.

“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five — and two fish.” - Mark 6:38

“When one door closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.” - Alexander Graham Bell

5. An opportunity taken usually produces another opportunity.

“Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to His disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.” - Mark 6:39-41

* Great opportunities come to those who say “Yes” to small ones!

6. Once you seize the opportunity, many people will benefit.

“They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.” - Mark 6:42-44

Who will benefit as Parkwood Gardens expands?

1) Our congregation

2) Parkwood Gardens community

3) Guelph and the Whole World

How Do We Miss Opportunities?

1. When we look at our resources instead of God.

2. When we rely on our understanding instead of obeying God.

3. When we expect God to do great things without first doing our part.

* God only works miracles through people!

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