

This is the Day...Monday

March 14, 2022

Motives

“All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the motives.”
(Proverbs 16:2)

It has never happened before or since. It likely appeared to have been a moment of weakness or a moment of compassion. But it was a moment in time that I have never repeated. What happened in that moment? I gave away my chocolate! Yep, without being threatened, tricked, or coerced, I gave my oldest brother my chocolate. And it wasn't just an ordinary piece of chocolate. It was the best chocolate there is. It was one of those large Hersey bars with almonds. Unopened, not melted, in the wrapper.

It's the truth. My mom saw me do it. She watched me hand it over to my brother. She asked me why I gave away my only piece of chocolate. I replied, “Because he loves chocolate too and did not have any.” And Mom thought, what a great guy my youngest son is! What a great act of unselfishness. The boy who loved chocolate more than air, compassionately gave his chocolate away. That's what Mom thought and that was my story and I stuck to it. That is, until Mom found out the real truth. You see, my oldest brother and I had an “arrangement.”

Several weeks before Mom saw me give away my chocolate, my brother also saw me do something. I had been playing in the woods one afternoon and I had made a new friend. It was a large, green snake. Now, if you know green snakes, you know that even a large one is only about ten inches long. But this one was over a foot long! A full-grown green snake. I had never seen one that big and did not want to lose him. So, I came out of the woods that afternoon with that green snake in my coat pocket. If I could just get him into the house, unnoticed, I could keep him safe in my room and enjoy him every evening. Unfortunately, as I approached the house, my brother walked up and saw the snake slithering out of my pocket. “Where are you going with that green snake?” “Uh, to my room,” I said. And that is when my brother and I made our arrangement. My secret was safe with him, as long as I surrendered all my chocolate to him.

As far as I know, Mom never found out about the arrangement. She thought I was just a very compassionate little boy. Thinking back, she may have put two and two together when I began eating chocolate again right after she found a dead green snake in my closet. Maybe my motives for sharing my chocolate were not based on compassion after all.

On this day which God has given you, be careful about your motives. It is easy for us to justify the things we do based on our own perspective. But in the end, God is the true judge of our motives because God sees our heart.