

This is the Day...Friday

May 20, 2022

The Undone Things

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

When I think back to my childhood, I do not remember having any issues with those first basic tasks that every child must learn. As with my other brothers, my mom took the time to teach me the basics of how to correctly brush my teeth, comb my hair, and button my shirts. Mom even showed me the “proper” way to make my bed and fold my clothes, although I have never been very good at clothes folding. One of my greatest challenges was learning to tie my own shoes.

As with most young children, I spent the first few years of my life wearing shoes that were either slip on or had a Velcro strap. When Mom came home with some new tennis shoes with white laces, I was very excited until I realized that she was not going to always be available to tie them for me. Mom sat down with me over the course of several evenings, showing me how to make a shoelace bow. She would go through the steps one by one and then ask me to try. My attempt usually ended in a big knot and me becoming increasingly aggravated. Mom even called in Dad to give some instruction. Dad thought it would be helpful to make tying shoes into a story. So, as he made the bow, he began telling me something about a rabbit coming out of a hole, around a tree, and back into a hole. It all seemed crazy to me and was not an effective technique. Finally, I heard Dad tell Mom, “I give up! He will just have to ask his friends in college to tie his shoes for him.”

The next day, Mom insisted that I wear the new tennis shoes to school. She tied them very tightly for me so that they would stay tied all day. But unfortunately, that did not work, and by lunchtime, both of my shoes were untied. I sneaked away by myself to try to tie them but failed miserably. I finally decided to just let the laces flap in the wind. Maybe I would start a new fashion trend in wearing tennis shoes. All was well until recess after lunch. I began running on the playground, stepped on one of my laces and crashed, face first, into the pavement. Sometimes leaving things undone can cause us to stumble.

There are many ways that undone things can be destructive in our lives. Not tying your laces can cause you to stumble. Not putting items away that have been dropped on the floor can be a trip hazard. But the most dangerous undone things are our relationships. There are times when even the closest relationships can become fragmented. Friends have misunderstandings. Relatives can be insensitive. Social media can drive a wedge between well meaning people. Relationships which are left broken and undone are a dangerous stumbling block. They can become an obstruction to allowing others to see Christ in us.

On this day which God has given you, if you have some things undone, take the time to tie them up. Make every effort to live in peace with everyone. Don't allow your undone things to cause you to stumble.