

This is the Day...Monday

August 1, 2022

Do I Know You?

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matthew 7:21-23)

Several years ago, I was back in Gastonia, spending the weekend with my mom. Mom’s health was failing at the time, but she still lived alone in the same house I lived in throughout my childhood. Most weekends I would travel to Gastonia and spend my time there mowing her grass, helping her with laundry, and just spending time together. Both mom and I always enjoyed Sunday mornings together. I would head over to the local Bojangles to get mom her favorite sausage and gravy biscuit and then we would settle in to watch the church service of the local Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. Mom would always look forward to seeing the service but, before the congregation finished the opening hymn, Mom would be laid back in her chair, sound asleep.

Usually on Saturday afternoons I would make a trip to the local Walmart to pick up groceries and other items mom needed. On one such trip, I was walking up and down the aisles, picking out the items Mom had placed on the list, when suddenly I heard someone yell out, “Chris Howe!” I turned around and noticed a man, about my age, walking directly toward me with a big smile on his face. He reached out his hand to shake mine and then pulled me to him for a quick man hug. As he was talking and hugging me, my mind was racing. I did not know this person at all. He knew my name. He knew where I lived. He knew my brothers and asked about them. He even knew that my dad had died several years before. As he spoke, asking me questions, I was hoping that he would give me a clue of who he was and how I should know him. But he never did. I did not want him to know I did not recognize him, so I just nodded my head as he talked. After talking to me and watching me just stare at him for several minutes, he began to walk away. Just when I thought I had fooled him, he turned around and said, “By the way, I’m Eddie Russell. Remember? I was your best friend.” It was only then that the light in my head came on and I was so embarrassed!

What if the same thing happened with Jesus? The greatest tragedy of life would be for us to not recognize Jesus when He comes to us. I can just imagine Jesus would stand there, talking about all the time you had spent with Him. And just like I did with Eddie, you would stand there with a blank look on your face, wondering who this person is. And as Jesus walked away, He might even say, “I was the one who was there for you during that trial. I was the one who carried you when you were too weak. I was the one who kept you on the right path. I was the one who died for you. Remember?”

On this day which God has given you, make sure you recognize Jesus in your life. Strive to know Him better today. Take time to experience life with Him. There is nothing more embarrassing than to not recognize your best friend.