

This is the Day...Tuesday

August 2, 2022

Take off your Shoes!

“When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’” (Exodus 3:4-5)

Living in a two-bedroom house with two adults and four active boys came with its challenges. Our house was not the place to go for peace and quiet. Our football games in the living room and nerf basketball games in the bedroom were always exciting and noisy. I’m sure the endless stomping, banging, and yelling got on my dad’s last nerve some days. Occasionally, he would come into our room and say, “It sounds like you boys are tearing the house down!”

The noise was not the only challenge for my parents. Keeping our house “picked up” and clean was an endless job. We all were expected to pitch in and keep our own space “tidy.” But mom did the lions share of the cleaning on Saturday and always expected us to help. Our house was never really dirty, but mom did not expect it to be immaculate. Like Dad used to say, “This isn’t a museum. Our house is where life happens.”

Some other parents in the neighborhood had a different attitude toward house cleaning. My friend, Ricky Elmore, lived down the street and around the corner. The first time I went into Ricky’s house, I was amazed. The house was perfect. Nothing out of place. The floor was shiny, without clothes or toys strewn about. The carpet was vacuumed, all the same direction. The kitchen counters were cleared and no dishes in the sink. Ricky lived in a museum! As I walked into Ricky’s house his mom immediately stopped me and said, “Take off your shoes!” I did not completely understand, but my parents had always taught me to respect adults, so I did what I was told. Later, when I told my mom about it, she helped me understand that it’s all about showing respect. She said I should respect other people’s home and respect how other people live. I may not always understand it, but I should always be respectful.

As an adult, it seems like that is something our society has lost sight of. Respect. We have become an “I” and “Me” society. What I want and what I believe has become more important than what you want or what you believe. We have lost sight of the importance of respect for another person’s home, lifestyle, service, and even faith. To the point that, when we see someone being respectful, it is inspiring. But it’s just not that hard.

Respect is pulling over to the side of the road for two minutes as a departed loved one is transported to their final resting place. Respect is holding the door for the person behind you. Respect is referring to another person with “sir” and “ma’am,” regardless of who they are or how they look. Respect is standing in awe of the one in the wheelchair who sacrificed everything for your freedom many years ago.

On this day which God has given you, have the willingness to take off your shoes! Offer respect to those around you and, more importantly, to the one who paid the ultimate sacrifice for your eternity.