



FROM THE PASTOR

“Take Risks - if you win you will be happy, if you lose you will be wise.”- anonymous

Dear Friends,

Some years back, when we were away on a trip, (when my son was much younger), at night at a hotel, my son wanted something to do. So, I suggested playing the old favorite “Monopoly”, which I had on a computerized version (cd). Up to this point if I had played Monopoly with my son John, I usually won.

In fact, in my conceit, I fully expected to do so again. I thought I’d play it safe, looking for my opportunities. John on the other hand was taking risks, which I thought would lead to his quick exit from the game. Somehow that didn’t happen, and as his risks came together they really began to pay off. So, to my chagrin, he utterly wiped me off the board, and threw me into bankruptcy which caused me for the first time to lose!

Maybe there is a lesson here. Sometimes we get so concerned with “playing it safe” we miss out on pursuing a goal that God has for us. The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) might be a good guideline as to what Jesus says about taking risks for the Kingdom. The risk takers are ultimately rewarded and the one cautious servant loses everything.

Obviously, we need to rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit in these matters, as well as trying to discern the best we are able, whether what is being asked of us is in conformity with what we know of God and Jesus, and God’s dealings with humankind as revealed in Scripture.

However, we should not let the above mentioned “guidelines” be used as an excuse on our walk with God as well as in our community of faith, not to be bold and to take risks for the kingdom of God when we are led to do so.

Even as I write this, it makes me a bit uncomfortable as to what God may be calling me to risk furthering His kingdom on this earth. Maybe it does you too.

I know one thing. I never played “Monopoly” the same way again.

May God bless the rest of this summer for you and yours.

Your brother in Christ,
John



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