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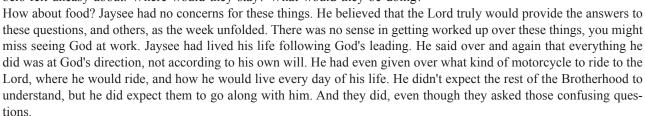
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Now? Or Never?

"Why do we always have to be right up against the wall?" Rocky impatiently asked this of no one in particular. "Why does it always have to be right NOW? Right away?" The irony of his impatience with impulsiveness was lost on him and the others, as they hurried about getting ready for the impending ride to Tomahawk for the Fall Colors Run. The Brotherhood of the Wind, which they had begun calling their club, was short on long-range planning, it seemed, preferring to see how neatly things might unfold on their own. Of course, that meant a lot of last minute decisions and plan changes for the brothers. Jaysee had not yet convinced the club that Someone higher up was in charge of things. All of them had an inborn aversion to anyone telling them what to do, but that's the way Jaysee wanted to operate. His frequent statement, "The Lord will provide", had become the Brotherhood's motto.

Because of last minute changes, there were a number of things that the members felt uneasy about. Where would they stay? What would they be doing?



Rocky didn't realize the contradiction he had expressed. Jaysee had merely told a enquirer that if he wanted to ride with the Brotherhood, he had to decide right now. He had to choose what he wanted today, and not put things off until later. This statement had followed closely upon Jaysee's directive that everybody pre-check their bikes, change oil if needed, and fill the tanks with gas. There were other last minute duties to consider, as well, and the Brotherhood set about to get everything in order. The time of the departure was quickly approaching.

Rocky had generally been impulsive all his life, but had always made allowances for it, excusing it as, "That's just the way I am." For Rocky to even suggest that something be put off 'til a more convenient time brought a smile to Jaysee's face. The need for an immediate answer was merely the straw that broke the camel's back. Isn't it true that we often become more critical of those who display the very tendencies which trouble us? No one would know that Rocky irritated himself when he became impatient with others, or impulsively said or did something he later regretted. Rocky wished he had not uttered those harsh words in front of the Brothers. He knew that Jaysee was not asking the young man to be impulsive, but to be decisive.

In many circumstances of life, we put off decisions, waiting for more information, less stress, better timing, or any number of other things. We don't want to be so impulsive that we make mistakes, so we hesitate. When it comes down to God's call upon our lives, we must be ready and willing to hear and respond immediately. Sometimes, we never again have an opportunity like the one we passed up, and we pay the price. When it comes down to God's plan and purpose for our lives, time will inevitably run out on us. If we fail to come to God presently, we may never know what we have missed until it is too late. The Bible tells us that there is no better time than NOW, to respond to God's call in repentance, faith, and commitment.

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2 God says, "Now!" What will you say to that?

Pastor Sam Downey

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