

“Yep...It’s Monday”

Yep, it’s Monday and I am sitting here in my office a little after 7:00 a.m. wondering just what the day will hold. Will it be peaceful and non-stressful... probably not? Will a pastor walk in sometime this morning and tell me what a great and glorious day he experienced yesterday in the Lord’s house in spite of himself...wow, now that’d be a good one to listen to. Will a pastor walk in singing the blues about a church member or two that just don’t seem to get it...I certainly hope not. Will a deacon call and say that they have to do something about their church’s leadership...uh, they mean pastor, cause he just doesn’t get it...please Lord, no, can’t listen to another one of those. Or, after a terrible week of being on hurricane watch, will all go well as I look forward to a beautiful, sunshiny day in preparation for a great Executive Board meeting tonight...yes, Lord, yes...please!

You see, no matter how well planned out your life is or your day might be, interruptions and disruptions seem to be a constant part of the normal activities of life. I think it goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden and the curse or something akin to that. Anyways, life changes in a heartbeat, as does the ebb and flow of life. As is the case from time to time, I will get a phone call and the caller will say, “Hello, my name is Pastor So-and-So and I am looking for a church, do you have any churches without pastors?” On a good day I will respond, “No, but Sunday’s coming...give me a call next week.” On a bad day, I will say, “Yep, got thirteen churches without a pastor, send me your resume and I will send it out.”

This weekend, Hurricane Florence was barreling our way. And when the weather people tell you that it is a Cat 4 Hurricane that is heading right for the Carolinas, well, you kinda have to take that seriously and make changes and preparations. So, that is what we did. My church, Abbeville First, was supposed to be having a church-wide picnic at the lake...man you gotta love those occasions, and I was doing the cooking for the event. Well, with Florence due to head straight up our way, the church’s leadership had no alternative but to cancel and reschedule. They made the right call! By Sunday, the weather was yucky enough, but it was

nothing more than a rainy day...still not a good day for a BBQ picnic at the lake. Now plans changed and we have to figure out how to reschedule, which is never easy cause folks’ future schedules, including mine, are already booked up. But, you just never know what tomorrow will hold.

Flexibility in all of life is more than just necessary, it is essential as one navigates all the interruptions that come along. This is true in pastoral ministries for which a lot of folks do not fully understand. Pastors like normal schedules as much as anybody, but day or night, one cannot schedule deaths, sicknesses, hospitalizations, family crisis, etc., within the lives of church members. I know cause I’ve lived that life for 38 years now...and now I have a son who is a pastor and we will plan stuff and then, in the blink of an eye, all of it changes and well, it is what it is, as they say. But if you ever go on mission trips, flexibility is absolutely required cause anyone who has ever been on a mission trip knows that interruptions and disruptions are the norm on trips like that.

Yes, it is hunting season...you knew I had to get that in there somehow. And our best laid plans to bag the big one will probably end as it usually does...with the big one laughing at us at the end of the season having gotten away...again. Unless of course, your name is Addie Lee, who has bagged three big bucks in the last three years. But, apart from her, our chances of success are about as slim-to-nil as you can get. In spite of all the scouting, stand placement, trail cameras, etc., with the changing food sources brought on by changing seasons, from persimmons in early fall to acorns in the middle to food plots at the end of the season, deer habits change as much as do ours on a daily basis. But, honestly, that’s what keeps it fun...the opportunity for success coupled with a much more likely opportunity for failure.

All that to say, “Yep, it’s Monday,” meaning who knows what the day will hold. Ecclesiastes puts it this way, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.” Yep, it’s Monday and who knows what today will bring? And it might just be chalked full of good things! Like this article! Yep, it’s printed big enuff to actually read, which means I wrote less than normal...and yes, you are

certainly welcome! See, not all change is bad...sometimes it is a blessing! Enjoy the season of life that you are in...cause it too, will change!