

APPOINTMENTS

“To every creature”. Mark 16:15

Not the garbage man

June 9, 2021

Driving home just after noon, I could see half of a man, the legs, sticking out of the dumpster at my place. A black jeep with blacked out windows and no rear license plate.

As I passed him I looked for a front license plate, none.

I parked my car in front of someone else's home so he wouldn't know where I lived.

I grabbed my phone and walked back to the dumpster where he was gainfully at work.

“Hello!”

I held up my cellphone deliberately to let him see me taking a picture of him to warn him off.

He popped out, saying "Well, I could be breaking into your car or your house but I'm not, I'm just going through the garbage."

"Do you know how much God loves you? He's crazy about you. He doesn't want you to have to go through the garbage to make do, He wants to bless you. Isn't it time to get to know Him?"

Very soon we were holding hands and praying, and now I have another new brother.

He actually told me his true name, and of course I ran up the stairs and googled it and found a nice little rap sheet and mugshot. If I had known that, would I have approached him?

Absolutely. But wasn't my original intent to run him off? Yes.

It took a moment for it to dawn on me: Appointment.



“lift up your eyes and look” John 4:35

Here, Now:

He was sitting on the bus bench with his head in his hands as I drove past and heard "Go back and tell him." I've heard this many, many times, Appointments.

I was on my way to Eastside Church *on time* and I didn't want to look bad being late. I cared much more about how I looked than that man's eternal life.

I kept driving for at least 10 blocks and God kept saying “Come on now, turn around and tell him!” Here’s a lesson to remember: the longer you delay and farther away you are and the longer it will take you to go back and *care*.

Finally, I turned around and parked, sat next to him.

"Hey"

"Hey"

"Howya doing?"

He mumbled something.

That's usually how it starts.

"God told me to turn around and come back to tell you how much He loves you. He never takes His eyes off you."

"Wow."

"Yeah, He made you, He totally loves you and He has great plans for you."

"Wow, that's cool."

"Yeah. He's with you. He wants you to know Him, and Jesus wants to save you. Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your heart and be your Lord and Savior?"

"No."

"Do you want to now? Now's a real good time."

"Wow, yeah."

Then I held out my hands and he took them and we prayed.

He was ecstatic, he just kept saying "Wow!" and he was really, really pleased.

“I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’ Isaiah 65:1

God has Plans, God makes the Appointments, the Spirit has prepared everything, and all you do is make yourself **available**.

It's that easy.

And fun.

You've got appointments, *show up*.



I can barely make it to my weekends. Truthfully, I run out of breath.

Finally, weekends in the Garden with the Gardener. No voices other than butterflies, the birds, Him.

Suddenly in my mind: you better get to the store!!! What? I don't need anything. I have everything I need and absolutely no need to go out my front door today.

You better get to the store!!! And I repeat this conversation in my head not realizing it's not in my head, it's in my Spirit and it's Him.

Well, OK, I'll go, by the time I get there I'll think of something I need. I drive to Ericksons.

I see a purple Echinacea, a favorite. So, I put her in my basket and think "Lovely, now I can go home."

Then I see Nicolas in the store, he has a deli bag in his hand and no way to pay for it and I love him dearly. God loves him really dearly.

I met Cindy at the deli counter: "Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your heart?" We prayed, she did.



The man sitting in his car in the parking lot. He had a very big doggie. I got back out of my car and talked to the dog, then the man. About one and a half minutes later, the man and I are holding hands and praying and we have another new brother.

Here's you do it: you don't. He does. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10. We're His creatures, He's got good works all set up for you to do. His power in you gets them done.

Appointments.



