

## **And the Answer Is...**

The long running game show host of Jeopardy, passed away on November 8<sup>th</sup>. For thirty-seven years, Alex Trebek, would read off the answers and remind the contestants to phrase their reply in the form of a question. There is a game show host hall of fame and Alex Trebek is listed among some of the most liked and respect hosts of all time; Bob Barker, Bob Eubanks, Monte Hall, and others are also listed. I dare to say Alex Trebek was one of the most trusted and liked persons on television. Millions grew up watching him on Jeopardy as they viewed the show each week night. In fact, I believed he could have won this year's Presidential election if he wasn't Canadian (P.S. He actually did become a Citizen of the United States). Even when there was a controversy on the show, Alex Trebek was trusted to give us the right answer. In March of 2019, Alex was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He continued to film Jeopardy and did so until October 29<sup>th</sup>. I did not think was possible but news concerning the election was actually overshadowed by the news of this man's death.

Why was a game show host admired and respected by so many people of various backgrounds? Here are somethings we can learn from Mr. Trebek as to why he was so admired.

He treated everyone with respect and dignity. Contestants said he was the same person off as he was on the camera. He wanted the contestants to have the right answers and win as much as they could. Proverbs 18.24a reads, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly." A genuine love for people cannot be faked. I think of the love Jesus had for the multitudes as they followed Him. His love for mankind shown in His death on the cross. We are called to "love one another as Christ has loved us" (John 13.34)

He had a sense of humor and used it to make people feel at ease. In 2016 the show was having a special "Tournament of Champions" edition. The competition was intense and the people, including the crew, were on edge. He showed up without his pants and as he walked on the set as he showed

off his knees. It put everybody at ease which made a good show. You know there were times when folks gave bad answers but he used humor to make them feel better. Laughter and having a sense of humor is good when one is facing trials. “A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.” Proverbs 17:22). One time when speaking of who would take his place on the show, Alex said, they should seek a smart, funnier person who is younger and a woman. He then said it should be Betty White (she is currently 98 years old). I admire people who can keep this sense of humor. It says everything will be alright.

He had all the right questions without being the smartest person in the room. Don't get me wrong, I believe Trebek was very smart but was he always the smartest in the room? Frankly, there were times when watching the show, I lost interest because I knew none of the right questions. Alex Trebek always had the right questions because he could read what was before him. While he was intelligent, he never questioned or argued with the “right question” (which was actually the answer). At the same time, he was never arrogant or snooty with his replies to the contestants. As we read the Bible, we need to see the answers God has given to us and be humble in our answers to Him. “26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.” (1 Corinthians 1).

Finally, Mr. Trebek was true to the end. He worked on the show to within ten days of his passing. He said he would not retire because he felt like it would be giving up on the show, his family, and God. I don't know about his religious beliefs except he did believe in God and encouraged prayer on his behalf. As Christians we are to have a firm faith in God and be working until the end. The words of Paul were ones of continual service to God in Christ. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding

in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

To paraphrase Jeopardy and Alex Trebek, the answer is “Our Lord and Savior” the question is “Who is Jesus Christ?” – Dennis Tucker