Thoughts on Our Tybee Island Vacation

For almost a whole week our family experienced a vacation together. A couple of thoughts came to my mind during our time there.

People often speak of their investments. If I were to ask folks what is their biggest investment they might speak of their house or retirement account. Some might mention the time and money spent on their education. Some of those investments will be paid off and some may be somewhat disappointing as the stock market and housing market may boom and bust.

I dare say the biggest and most important investment people make is in their family. While some may not get married and have children, they will still have parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other family relationships. There will be marriages, children, and the rearing of those children. In both cases a decision will be made of how much time, effort, and money will be invested.

While on vacation I spent time with Regena and my investment. We got to laugh, talk with them, eat, sleep, and worship with them. I don’t regret our return on investment one bit. To our young families just starting out, I will encourage you to invest wisely in your family. Not just spend time with them in playing ball or working but in teaching them God’s law.

*“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”* (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Be consistent in your time, show the importance of God’s word in your life, do not miss an opportunity to make an impression on your children as to the importance of their relationship with God. You won’t be disappointed in your investment. I might add, this goes for one’s spiritual family as well.

Another thought came to my mind while at the ocean. The ocean is powerful and unrelenting. Some of us waded out into the waves. Some of those waves were over my head, occasionally I would get knocked down. Those waves are also unrelenting as one would follow another. The trouble with getting knocked down is knowing another one would soon hit you, so you had better get up.

My mind went back to Jesus on the Sea of Galilee. He was in a boat with experienced fishermen and they were afraid. My understanding is the winds coming off the northern mountains made this Sea especially turbulent. Those disciples turned to their teacher with a question, *“But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”* (Mark 4:38). This is a common question people ask, “Do you not care?” Or “Does God not care if I perish?”

“*Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”* (Mark 4:39). Seeing the waves for myself gave me greater insight to the disciple’s reaction as they were amazed. *“And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”* (Mark 4:41). We see the power of God’s creation and we can see the power of God in Jesus stopping the very waves of the ocean. Never forget or under estimate God’s power.

How can we doubt God’s power? Perhaps we can answer that question by looking at the verse between the one’s cited above. *“But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?”* (Mark 4:40). Our faith is not to be self-centered but God centered. As the children song says,

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

He made the trees

He made the seas

He made the elephants too

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

The mountains are his

The rivers are his

The skies are his handy works too

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

There's nothing my God cannot do

There's nothing my God cannot do

For you

-- Dennis Tucker