

## Midsummer Blues

I don't know about you, but it is hot in Iowa, humidity high, the air is pushing you into the ground, sweating just sitting still outside!

Some of you further West are battling even higher temps, other floods or fires. The weather is getting somewhat crazy, I don't remember something like that in years past, I mean the old days!

Well, I have been thinking about the upcoming school year, preparing for missions conferences, speaking at churches, commissioning services for graduates leaving for different mission fields, and for a theme for the upcoming school year.

I found one, based on a song from Michael W. Smith with the title: The heart of worship!

Love that song, but what really caught my eye is the refrain: It's all about you, it's all about you, Jesus!

I don't know about you, but is our life all about HIM or us; about me or HIM? What we do, think, spend our money on, relationships, time off, work, study, plans for our future, quiet time, devotions, hobbies, time in church, family, summer ministries, vacations, .....you fill in the rest!

I have been doing a lot of thinking and praying on this!

We live in a "me" society! Life is about me; I deserve a break today; I deserve this and that; I am entitled to this; buy this and you feel good; have that and all your problems are over; do I have a deal for you!

In my daily devotions I am in Ecclesiastes right now. Solomon talks about that everything is meaningless! Even utterly meaningless! In the comments of the devotions, the writer says that there are no news, nothing new going on. Oh yeah, we have landed on the moon but in the lives of people, nothing has changed! We are still just as self centered as during King David's and Solomon's days. Life is still all about us and not about HIM!

You can change that!

I am wondering why we are having such a hard time to find single people to join a mission and be willing to go anyplace, anytime, at any cost to serve the Lord? Why don't we trust the Lord to find our future spouse instead us hunting high and low thinking we have to take care of that or help God out? Today's missionaries are well paid, have good health insurance, retirement, drive cars and not only have one pair of sandals, have cell phones, a laptop and use skype to communicate free over the internet! The time is gone when left put their belongings into a coffin, put it on a ship knowing they will never see their family again or even hear from them! They even have babies, once married, in good hospitals, have vacations, see places, eat well and have fun and even can remember that they had them! I am not saying that we only need singles, we love to have couples, but we have a real need for singles and not only gals!!!! Guys are not stepping up to the plate! It's time to turn this around and I will be talking about this a lot this coming year. I don't only want to pick on the guys, but my message is for both sexes! It's time to unconditionally give ourselves to the Lord and go anyplace, anytime, at any cost to serve HIM.

I have heard before that we have a problem in letting "others" run our lives! But how much better to have the one that created us, knitted us in our mothers womb, made Himself known to us, died for us and rose again to run our lives? HE knows us better than we know ourselves! HIM we can trust!

Now, I know that not everyone will be a missionary or even is missionary material! Not every guy will be a pastor and be leading his own church. Some of you will be very ordinary people, work for hourly wages, have your own business, work in healthcare, be a mom and raising a family while dad is earning a living, but some will serve either full time, part time and love it. But that don't mean that those in the working world are not where God wants them, they are just in the center of His will as the others serving full time!

But here is a thought: would it not be great if you would be working in the location and business the Lord wants you in? I know of a lot of people that are very unhappy in their job and location! I believe they are unhappy for two reasons: they are not willing to do what they do for Him or listened to His voice when the right opportunity comes along for whatever reason. I have observed people and most know this is not working out but are not willing to make a change because they would give up security they think they have. I need to say that we still need to keep a straight head here and not go out on tangents, but I think the Lord some day when we stand before Him will show us the "what if I had done it His way" doors and we will be floored on what we missed! But, you don't have to make those mistakes!

So, as your new college year is starting soon, I would pray you make adjustments if needed!  
Are you ready to say, Lord, I serve you in anything you have for me, at anytime and at any cost!

If so, please let me know! I would love to stay in contact and talk to you when I will be on campus.

And let's not forget, it is all about HIM and not about us!

In His grip,

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