

## No Shows

*“And whatever He shows me...” Numbers 23:3*

This last week our Yellow Labrador had 11 pups – all night! Maria and the girls stay up and help in the delivery. Kudos! This results every time in loss of sleep and smiles. I am with them in heart and in bed, as last night I was teaching counseling to students in Cleveland and returned home at 9pm. Well this morning I was wide awake at 3:15am - when this happens it does no good for me to hope to hold sleep. It is done. I suppose sleep slipped away partially because I am not used to sleeping alone and partially because I needed to prepare for the 6:30am Bible study with the men of the church.

I got dressed and went to the church office numb, and nodding. Beginning to prepare the lesson I began to look forward to developing and discussing the material with the guys. For two hours the study shaped me as it took shape. It was 6:30am and everything was ready. Coffee completes the convergence. Now 6:45am rolls and no show. Around 7am I remembered that I had canceled the study because of Thanksgiving... now try to be thankful about memory loss. Didn't happen.

What about the prep? What about the study? What about the work? The answer to all of those questions is, “The soul is the benefactor of the ‘no shows’”. It was good simply to be warmed in the heart albeit it would have been nicer to warm the heart a bit later.

I started thinking about the “no shows” in life. We are called by God to prepare for battles, benefits, and blessings but often they don't show. We wait to give out what we learned but the time comes and goes without warning. I think that God is more concerned, at times, with preparation and purity. The battle will come and that which I learned alone with God will be used but the personal growth comes regardless of the sharing of wisdom. It was good to be alone with God, to see His chalkboard and hear His verbs. This is the feast.

I hope you have some “no shows” this week so you can just feel God's words to you alone – shared with no one. “No shows” allow for “a show alone” of personal instruction. It is for you alone, for that moment. It is to remind the mind of God. It is great to remember that God is never a “no show”. He often times shows better when we have “no shows”.

*What a show when shown alone!*