

Raining and Smelling

Ever heard the statements, “Don’t rain on my Parade” and “Smell the roses”?

Well one of them is exactly what is forecasted for Medina tomorrow, July 4th. We are to “enjoy” rain the entire day and maybe even some thunderstorms. Of course God could change the weather for us, if that is His desire, which I hope it is. Medina County will have the annual July 4th parade in which The Fountain, our church, chooses to give 3,000 bottles of water to hot and humid people screaming for relief from the burning heat. This is the 3rd time we have placed our hope on a hot summer day for the parade by a thorough preparation, including 40 minutes of putting our church labels on all of those bottles.

As I look outside I see a sunny, bright, and good-looking day. “Lord, can we have a 24 hour reprieve? Just 24 hours! Look at our diligence and effort in putting in all the needed preparation. Please!” Have you ever felt like the rain is coming and there is nothing to do about it? Try smelling the roses.

God looks at things from a different perspective in most things. For the first two outings of water giving, His will was to give beautiful days – streets lined with over 5000 people (we gave 3000 bottles and didn’t even come close to all that wanted them). The intense preparation made sense in the refreshing success. It is this idea, “Do your part and the end will be assured”. But there is faulty theology in that, even if it is a normal, constant assumption.

We tend to view the end as the goal. But the path or formulation is also in God’s goal. For another example, I have thought that preaching a marvelous sermon is the result of strong and insightful study. Not necessarily so. Some of the most impacting sermons have been given after a week of relentless demands which denied study. And in the opposite way, I have spent most of the week in study and then preached a “dead dog”. Some of you know exactly what I mean. You have spent hours only to watch it get wet in proverbial rain.

So how does smelling the roses connect with this? Well in God’s world, raining and smelling are needed. The “rain on the parade” may be exactly what God needs to grow the roses and the fragrance for you to enjoy. Both smelling the roses and raining on the parade have their part. We need them. They reveal God to us. Remember Job taught this when he said, **“He gives and He takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21).**

Are you smelling during the raining? Hope so.