

Spiritual Reflection for June 2019

Life Being Erased

Have you ever written something down and then erased it only to discover that even a good eraser cannot remove all of the remnants of the pencil lead? Even the color of the paper is often different after you try to erase something from it, an imprint remains. This reflection was encouraged as I listened to someone who has a terminal illness describe the feeling of life being erased.

The conversation started with an explanation that while they were home one day cleaning things out of the house their attention moved outside where a building had been torn down. Another building had recently been emptied and it felt as though their life was being “erased”. I listened intently and tried to imagine the scene. Can you see how they could feel this way? I could. Think about the questions you would have if you were in this situation. Think I did. I wondered what it would be like to stand and watch my home, my daily livelihood be removed from my sight. I was deeply moved by this perspective and hopeful in offering support for their emotions.

I began to think about my life and the various chapters I have lived through. Were those times erased from my life? In one way yes, but in a bigger way, no. I thought about the imprint others have made on my life and hoped I had made an imprint on the lives of others through their various chapters. The shared interactions, conversations, joys, sorrows, wisdom, and support we offer each other leaves an imprint that can never be erased. We all know material things do not last. In many ways, the material world around us is crumbling constantly. Bit by bit the things we use to live our lives are destroyed. Sometimes they are destroyed by nature in the form of tornados, floods or fires and sometimes they are destroyed in the name of “progress” by heavy equipment. Regardless of our material loses the imprint people make on our life lives on.

I shared this thought during our time together and hopefully assured them their life imprint would not be erased from the hearts of family members and friends. The love shared will live on forever.

If we think about the life of Jesus there is little focus on the material works of his hands, but so much to remember about the spiritual work of his hands. His healing touch, his forgiving words and his life-giving compassion has not been erased. In fact, it is shared all around the world. The imprint Jesus made lives on in each of us giving us the same opportunity to leave an imprint, his imprint, on the lives we come in contact with.

There is a song by Casting Crowns that came to mind during my time of reflection titled, *Only Jesus*. These words are from the second verse, "All the kingdoms built, all the trophies won will crumble into dust when it's said and done, 'Cause all that really mattered, Did I live the truth to the ones I love? Was my life the proof that there is only One, Whose name will last forever?" (Check it out the whole song online at Life 102.5

Live your life as Jesus did modeling his compassion, forgiveness and healing and you will lead others to live compassion, forgiveness and healing. Your life will be lived for good and there will be no need not worry about your life being erased.

Questions to ponder:

What do I hope to leave as a legacy?

How can I leave an imprint on the lives of those I love?

How can I leave an imprint on a stranger's life?

What have I learned from the life of Jesus?

May God's Peace Be With You,

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