



HOME RUN Devotional #19 – Change in Your Pocket
By Pastor Darren L. Chilson

As I began in ministry, a little over 6 years ago now, a mentor shared with me a core value of how to win in ministry. He shared with me an idea from leadership guru, John Maxwell. He said, every time you serve someone effectively, you earn change in your pocket. Inversely, every time you drop the ball with someone, you lose change out of your pocket. And then he uttered the part that still rings in my ears, “When you’re out of change, you’re out of a job.” As you can imagine, hearing these words shortly after I had landed my first “real job” was shocking. However, I can say this wisdom holds true.

Scripture teaches us that God is one who keeps his promises. Isaiah 40:8 says “the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” God has never made a promise he hasn’t or won’t deliver on. His word always holds true. While we may not always agree with his methods or his answers, he has always come through for us with what’s best for us. God has always earned change in his pocket!

Think about it in your own life. Even if you’re not in ministry, think about your family. If you consistently are not home at a time you have agreed to with your spouse, or if you don’t show up when you have said you will, for your children, your word becomes less valuable, and less trustworthy. You lose change out of your pocket.

Ephesians 5:1-2 urges us to follow God’s example and “walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us.” Paul encourages us to follow the example of Christ, to show love to those around us. In so doing, we grow to be more like Christ, and grow deeper in relationship with those we love. .

Questions for today: Who in your life do you need to work on earning change with? Have you lost change in your pocket with someone? Take time today to pray and seek forgiveness for wrongdoing from others.

Verses to look up: Ephesians 5:1-2, Isaiah 40:8, Revelation 21:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, Romans 12:1-2

Prayer for today: Father, thank you that your promises will last forever. Forgive me for ways in which I have not shown love to others around me. Forgive me for the times when I have lost change in my pocket with others because of my selfish attitude. Help me to win with others, by making me more like you, enabling me to keep my word, so that I can point people to you! Thank you for loving me and shining your light through me!

Prayer for this week: Dear Jesus, Thank you for a new day! A day that I can worship you, love you, and serve you! Thank you for helping me to win dependence upon you. Help me every day to take time to realize that it ALL begins and ends with you.

Thank you for helping me to "win within" by being a person of integrity. Help me to regularly examine myself and seek Your forgiveness for sin. Help me to realize that life is short and eternity is forever so that I will walk in obedience to you, letting go of all else that consumes me except for You.

Thank you for helping me to "win with others" by seeing them the way that You see them. Help me to love people and use things rather than use people and love things. Use me this day to influence someone for you.

Help me to continue to pray and believe for breakthroughs even when I don’t see them. Thank you for the breakthroughs that have happened in my life and my church. May I be the person You want me to be and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community! Amen