



Thursday Thought

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My Mother's Sayings

Thursday, 11-8-2018

Verse for the week: James 4:17 (NLT) “Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”

in·i·ti·a·tive (noun) 1.the ability to assess and initiate things independently.

Recently I was walking through our church parking lot and saw a lollipop stick. I thought about just leaving it there but I remembered one of my mother's sayings. I've noticed that in my Thursday Thoughts I often refer to my mother's sayings. I imagine I do that because they are factual and have stood the test of time. I find myself saying the same lines she used to say. To give you some examples:

- “The truth stands but a lie will run itself out!”
- “Don't put off until tomorrow what you should do today!”
- “You let things go in one ear and out the other!”
- “Birds of a feather flock together!” (She said this in regards to choosing friends wisely.)
- “Do the job right the first time so you don't have to do it over again!”
- “You do what you want to do when you want to do it!” (Usually when I was in trouble)

One that seems to have really stuck out to me this week is when she would say, “If you see something that needs to be done, do it!” She would usually say this in regard to having initiative, or the lack of it. Initiative is something that she hammered into our minds again and again. She didn't like it when we did a job “half way.” She thought we should complete the job and do it with excellence. I didn't realize it at the time, but what she was teaching us was actually a biblical principle. Colossians 3:23 (NCV) says, “In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people!” I don't think this just refers to our employment, but in all we do. (Maybe that's why I mow the yard one direction instead of round in circles.) Initiative is something that can be shown in our academics, employment, family relationships, marriages, our church lives, and yes, even when we are just walking along and pick up that lollipop stick that someone else threw on the ground. It's easier sometimes to look the other way and to not take initiative, but Colossians 3:24 (NCV) says, “Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to His people.” Someone has to do it, why not you? The rewards outweigh the effort, so go ahead and show some initiative in all you do!

Question to ask yourself: Where do you lack initiative and what are you going to do about it?