

BECOMING MORE JEOPARDY- THAN WHEEL-MINDED

Over the years I have been more of a *Wheel of Fortune* watcher than *Jeopardy*. One of the reasons why I drew more to *Wheel of Fortune* is because it is something I would watch together with my dad each night before he passed away. Another reason for my preference had to do with my ability to solve the puzzles. Most times I was able to solve the puzzle before it was revealed.

It just wasn't on the television version that I was able to do this. My boss in the 90's installed a version of it on our work computer. The computer was situated in my office so he would come in at times during lunch and play it while I worked at my desk. Naturally I would take a few glances at the computer monitor to see if I could solve the puzzle before him. I always wished I could have been a contestant on *Wheel of Fortune*. I think I would have done quite well as long as the wheel did not land on bankrupt each time.

I did not *Jeopardy* too much because I was so bad at it. If the categories had to do with sports or the Bible, then I had a good chance at answering it properly, but rarely did I know the answer to other spots on the board.

Recently I have started watching *Pop Culture Jeopardy* and *Celebrity Jeopardy* with my daughter. I am enjoying watching these versions of the popular game show because I actually have a better success rate at answering the questions. (Okay, phrasing the answer in the form of a question). I have to admit that my daughter has a better rate than I do in coming up with the answers, but it is still fun to play along with her.

I notice at times when we watch these versions of *Jeopardy* sometimes one of us knows the proper response but hesitates in saying it, and other times we may say after hearing the answer, "I should have known that." I know many people are avid watchers of both *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy*. We actually toured the set of *Jeopardy* in 2018 but were unable to see the *Wheel of Fortune* studio because they were filming that day.

As I thought about the process in *Jeopardy* of coming up with the answers and phrasing them as questions, it made me begin to think of how we approach this same process with Jesus. I mentioned earlier how we sometimes hesitate with the proper question and response in *Jeopardy*. Thankfully we do not have to be hesitant when it comes to putting our questions to Jesus and seeking the right

response. John the Baptist understood this truth when he had questions, and that is why he did not hesitate to bring them to Jesus. After John the Baptist had been put in prison by Herod, he began to have some doubts as to whether Jesus truly was the Messiah. He did the right thing by sending two of his disciples to Jesus to ask the question, "**Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?**"

Jesus did not phrase His response in the form of a question, but rather eased John's doubts by providing evidence He was doing the work foretold of the Messiah:

The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised back to life and the Good News is being preached to the poor. And tell him, 'God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.'
(Luke 7:22-23)

John the Baptist was not hesitant in bringing his questions to Jesus in search of the right response. Imagine how reassuring it was for John to receive this response and be content knowing he had indeed been preparing the way for the Lord. Just like John the Baptist, we too may have certain questions and doubts that we are seeking the proper answers to in life. We know Jesus holds the answers to these questions. We also know He wants to relieve our doubts and put our hearts at peace. Like John the Baptist did here, let's not hesitate in putting these concerns in the form of a question to Jesus. We can rest assured He not only knows the answer but also will communicate it to us in a way that is refreshing and reassuring. To hesitate in doing this, we are putting in "Jeopardy" our sense of peace and spiritual well-being.

Despite becoming more of a *Jeopardy* than *Wheel* watcher of late, I still find myself humbled by how much I do not know. I am learning more about faith each day. I just need more of this category on *Jeopardy* to feel somewhat smarter.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean