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## Think On These Things

Moment of Manna

Leo Pete

One night I was just sitting there watching TV, and my wife came into the room and said, "What are you watching?" I said, "I don't know. I'm just killing time until the game starts." I guess I was watching "So You Think You Can Dance." I wasn't really watching it. It was just some noise in the background while I waited for the game. I could care less what was happening on the screen, but I had nothing better to do. Just wasting time. I seem to do that more often than I should.

When I got ready to build my house I first had to buy a house lot. I looked around and settled on a lot on the County Road in Milford. When it came time to sign the papers and hand over the money, the owner of the lot told me he would sell me fifty acres of land that surrounded my lot for \$10000. That was a lot of money back then, and I was struggling to get the money for my lot and for the house itself, so I turned it down and someone else bought it. It was divided into 50 one-acre lots and they were all sold for a grand total of \$500,000. For an investment of ten thousand dollars, I could have ended up with half a million, but I passed it up; missed the opportunity. What did I know?

There's a little coffee shop/snack shop near where I work and I used to go in there almost every day for coffee and a snack for years. You get to know the people who work there once you become a regular; at least on a surface basis. You don't REALLY get to know them. And there was this one girl who worked there who always had a smile ready for me and always said "Hi" when I came in, even though in all those years, she never waited on me. It's just the way the lines worked. The timing just never worked out. And I remember a few years ago, she began to show a bulge in her stomach. As time went on it would get a little bigger and bigger. I had had three kids so I had a pretty good idea what was going on, and I was happy for her, but I never really had a chance to say anything to her...to congratulate her. One day, as I entered the shop she was just leaving for the day, and we smiled and said "Hi" to each other as we passed. As she was pulling out of the parking lot I stopped and thought, "Boy! She's

been pregnant a long time. Seems like it's been about a year." As luck would have it, the manager waited on me, and I said to her, "Is she ever going to have that baby?" And the manager looked at me kind of funny and said, "I'm not even going there!" And I thought, "That's a strange thing to say." Then it dawned on me and I said, "She's not pregnant, is she." And the manager said, "No. She's just been gaining a lot of weight and can't seem to lose it." Now, I want you to know that I honestly believed she was pregnant. I wasn't trying to be funny or be a wise guy. I sincerely thought she was getting ready for a happy event. And a shiver went up my spine as I thought about what would have happened if she had waited on me and I congratulated her on her pregnancy. How that would have hurt her. Talk about putting your foot in your mouth. Oh I've always been very good at that. Over the years I've had my foot in my mouth so often that I have the NIKE logo emblazoned across my lips and my breath smells like feet. Why is it I don't think before I speak?

There are three things in life we can never get back: Wasted Time, Missed Opportunities, and the Words from our mouth. Once it's gone it can never be taken back; and I score high on all three of these things...especially the words from my mouth. God warns us about these things and gives us the solution in Phillippeans 4:8. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable...if anything is excellent or praiseworthy...think on these things."

When you think on these things, you won't waste time.

When you think on these things, you won't squander opportunities.

When you think on these things, you won't say things that make your mouth taste like an old sock.

When you think on these things, you won't argue with your spouse.

When you think on these things, you won't offend your neighbor.

When you think on these things, you'll have a more positive attitude and make better decisions.

The next time you have time to kill, or an opportunity presents itself, or you get ready to speak...think on these things...and maybe you won't have to worry about chasing after those things in life that you can never get back.