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February 5, 2010

Preparedness

Dear Readers,

It is snowing AGAIN! We are all on alert as the big snow is about to start at any moment. We have been preparing for this all week. To date this winter we have already received the amount of snow that we usually anticipate in the season. There are several more inches of the white stuff on the way.

We Marylanders have traditions when it is going to snow. We move into preparedness mode. We ready our snow shovels, make sure our cars are backed into the driveway, and have our ritualistic visit to the grocery store. Last evening when I came by the local grocery there was not an open parking space in the whole lot. I cannot imagine how it must have been in there.

I talked with a friend who told me that they had been to the store but there was no bread, no eggs, and no milk. The shelves were completely empty. There had been a run on those items. We Marylanders prepare ourselves when it is going to snow by stocking up on grocery items. I would bet that more eggs, milk, and bread are sold during snowy weeks than clear ones. I would also bet that people have far more of those items than they could possibly use in the course of a snow event.



We get all ready for a major snow and then only a few hours after the snow is done we are all dug out, on the roads, and resuming normal schedules. Given that our roads do get cleared so promptly and so many of us get back on the roads so quickly, why is there that rush to stock up



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on supplies? Well, I think it is about wanting to be ready. I think it is about wanting to make sure we have everything we need.

There is something to that idea of being ready. We want to be ready for any contingency. I'm wondering about that and the Christian life? I'm thinking about being ready. Are we ready? I remember when I was a youth and that question about faith and being ready had to do with being ready to die—it was a question that had connotations about salvation. That's an okay discussion, but I think I'm more captivated when thinking about readiness and preparedness to ask myself (and you too!) about being prepared to be the instrument of blessing God calls me (and you!) to be in the here and now.

Am I prepared for the good God wants to work through me for someone else? Am I prepared today to be that blessing to someone else that God wants me to be? Am I ready to be the channel for God's supernatural ways that will bless another life because of how God is calling me to live, sacrifice, give, or present myself today? Am I ready? Are you ready? Are we ready to be fully alive for what God calls us to this day?

Such preparedness is not purchased at the grocery store—it is lived out in faithfulness.

Blessings,
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