

Finding Jesus on Race Day

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (John 14:21 NKJV)

As I advance in years, I find myself growing more and more content. One of the key factors in doing so is a greater acceptance of my lot in life. I often tell people that if God takes me home today and never does another for me, He has already blessed me far more than I could have ever expected or imagined.

Recently, while visiting my brother Rick, I was asked by him if I ever attended a NASCAR race. I replied that I had not, and would probably never be blessed with that privilege. Never say never, because shortly after that God opened up a door for me to go to the "Brickyard 400" at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. To say that I was excited would be an understatement! I was like a little kid on Christmas morning.

As I spent my quiet time with the Lord that morning, I asked Him that I would be able to see Him at the track during the day ahead. I expected that there would be someone witnessing or handing out Gospel tracts, or perhaps even a Ministry booth or table. That was not to be because the Lord had better plans.

When we arrived at the track the atmosphere was electric, but there was no one there more excited than me. I am sure that pure excitement radiated from my childlike, beaming countenance. I was overflowing with the joy of the Lord, and person after person that I encountered reflected that same warmth and joy. The race was loud and fast, but there was nothing more emotional to me than standing at such a historic track, hearing the prayer and the national anthem, and witnessing the "fly over" of a military B-25 bomber. I could hardly contain my emotions!

After the race we went out to eat and I struck up a conversation with a stranger sitting at the next table. I expressed to him my amazement at how warm and friendly the people that I had encountered during day had been. I attributed that to the fact that they were from the Midwest Bible Belt. He responded by anonymously paying for our meal!

As I later reflected on the day, I thought about my prayer earlier to see Jesus at the racetrack. While I hadn't seen any evangelists or heard any bible verses quoted, I had indeed seen Jesus. I saw Him in the faces of the people I had encountered. And I can't help but think that they saw Him in me as well. We were created to Glorify God according to the Apostle Paul's words to the congregation in Rome. And we all have the opportunity to do so every day of our lives. Perhaps we need to spend less time and effort thinking about how we can sell the Gospel, and more time reflecting the love of our Savior into the lives of the people we meet. I really believe that is what Jesus would do if He were here today.

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