

We Never Know Who Is Watching



Cathy and I met with our niece Andrea who had asked to interview us for a senior college class project on marriage. As she took out her long list of questions, it was apparent to us that she was excited to ask questions. The conversation centered on our various stages of marriage, the many challenges we faced over the last 38 years, and what things have made this marriage sustain and grow for the long term. There was a lot of laughter, yet times of real painful introspection from both Cathy and me. We shared about the hard challenges we had faced, and the hard fought process of forgiveness with each other in our failures. We both elaborated on how critical it has been to have our souls and lives open to the Lord's healing work in two very different, headstrong people. We shared so many stories of sorrow, redemption, and glory during our time with Andrea that caught us up into the wonder of God's grace.

What we had not noticed, was a young waitress that slowly swept the floor and hovered around our table. She walked over and asked about our conversation and our view on marriage. She sheepishly smiled, knowing she was interrupting, but her curiosity got the better of her. She asked the perfect question on what kept us together after these years. Cathy beat me to the answer as the door cracked open to our waitress' heart, "Christ, we are Christians, and that has what sustained us in our marriage." We were caught up with a young woman wondering about how marriage works at all in this troubled world. We found her heart intrigued by our story of God's grace in the ongoing work in our marriage. Our waitress crashed the party in the most glorious of ways that deeply touched Cathy and me by her courage and tenacity.

As we were sitting at the table I found myself wondering, *who else is watching all of us?* What other people are looking for some glimmer of hope that God is real and actually cares about us? This young woman was quietly, unobtrusively listening to us for signs of hope, that a marriage that can be good. I pondered this question with mixed awe and wonder at the invitation we are each called to offer as we live our lives for Christ: *What will people find in us as they watch from a distance?*

Dave

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