

Perspectives

Been There, Done That!

The “Been there, done that” phrase has been around for many years. Often people utter this phrase when they hear, do, or experience something they have heard, done, or experienced before. For example, a friend shares that his/her car is in the shop again and is going to cost him/her a lot of money to repair. Because of your past experiences, you tell your friend, “Been there, done that.” People may say this statement to express their feelings of boredom or complacency after experiencing an “all too familiar” situation. For example, someone invites you to hear a speaker talk about a subject you have heard over and over again. You respond to their invitation with, “No thanks. Been there, done that.”

Even in the church this type of attitude can creep in. After singing a familiar hymn, sitting in the same pew by the same people week after week, or hearing the pastor speak on a certain topic, we may consciously or unconsciously think, “Been there, done that.” This can be especially true within our Sunday School class/small group. When reading a story we have heard many times before, we may be tempted to think there is nothing new to learn, discover, or discuss. However, we must always ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the things God wants to teach us in that particular moment at that particular time—always seeking God’s leading in applying its message to our lives.

Recently I read a Bible story that I have known since I was a child. As I opened myself up to God and asked Him to help me approach the story with new eyes and understanding, I was amazed at the things God helped me to learn and discover.

As you read Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Psalms this quarter, open yourself up to God and what He wants to teach you through His Word. Let us avoid the “Been there, done that” mentality and move toward the attitude of the psalmist: “Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name” (Psalm 86:11).

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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