

# RADICAL REPORT

I have a basket in my room full of all of the cards and letters people have sent me since Donnie passed away. I read them all when I got them, but for some reason, maybe because my anniversary is coming up, I wanted to read them all again and remember what people had said to me and about Donnie. Putting the basket on my bed, I opened each card and spent two days re-reading all of them. I felt so encouraged and teared up hearing about what Donnie and his life meant to so many people. Donnie ran his race well and he ran it with a lot of love for others. Someone said to him one time, "Donnie, it seems like everything you touch turns to gold." He responded by saying, "I don't touch many things. I can count on one hand the things I do well, so I focus on the few things I can do and try to do them well." These are wise words; what about the rest of us?

In Hebrews 12:1,2 we are admonished to run with endurance the race God has set before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who authored and perfects our faith.

We all have our

own race to run that God has marked out already. It's a race only we can run that God has equipped us for. When we think "race, we think competition. We're not competing against each other, we're competing with each other. We're running together, but in different lanes, with

different gifts we contribute to this race called "life," spurring each other on.

This is the life God has given us, moving at our own pace and in our own way. Sometimes we move fast, and other times we move slowly in brokenness; sometimes it's a crawl because we're injured or broken and need time to heal and many times we are lifting another "runner" up because they are struggling to finish. Mostly, it's about taking one step at a time, fixing our eyes on Jesus as He sets the pace of our lives.

Years ago, when our kids swam competitively they were told not to glance at the swimmer next to them because it would slow them



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*continued-*

*from the front-*

down. Because of the competitive nature of a race we tend to forget we're not competing with each other, but we're running with each other, each in his or her own lane.

In John chapter 21, Jesus is walking with Peter and telling him "by what kind of death he would glorify God." Peter turned around, saw John following them and asked Jesus, "What about him?" Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me."

It's so easy and tempting to compare ourselves and our life with others'. It can be discouraging when we think we aren't "doing" enough or moving fast enough or are gifted enough like someone else. We can't live our lives looking around and asking God, "What about him? What about her?" We can only ask, "What about me? What are you asking of me, Lord?"

And in His graciousness and patience, He makes us the best version of ourselves, not the best version of another person or the best



version of who we think others want us to be, but the best version of who He is making us to be. All He asks is simply, "You, follow Me." ~

*Cindy*

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