

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

July 19, 2009

Years To Build, Moments To Destroy

Do you remember several years ago when the city of Cincinnati blew up Riverfront Stadium so that they could build Great American Ballpark? My parents have a picture of that event. It shows Riverfront standing solid, then as the explosions began, and then the aftermath. I was looking at that picture some time ago and it got me to thinking about some things.

It had taken all the people who were involved in building that stadium many years to complete it when you factor in the planning phase. For years and years people had gone down with their families to Riverfront to enjoy Reds and Bengals games. For those who grew up in Cincinnati and for whom sports was a part of life, evenings at Riverfront with mom and dad to watch the Reds have been forever burned into our brains. In less than thirty seconds, from the moment of the first explosion to the last, the stadium was simply *gone*.

So many things in this life take so long to build and maintain, yet can be ruined in only a moment's time. Take, for instance, a good reputation. In both the business and spiritual realm it takes a very long time to establish a good reputation. Solomon spoke to the importance of such a reputation in Proverbs 22:1. **"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."**

How long do you think it takes to "explode" a good reputation? No time at all, really. All it takes is for one known ungodly act to be committed without repentance and suddenly you have a reputation that has been exploded. Words spoken without thought can also destroy a reputation. There have been men of great repute who have spoken to me or about others in my hearing in such a way that I will never be able to look at them the same way again. That is not to say I have stopped loving them, I simply cannot hold them in as high esteem as I did before.

You know something else that can be destroyed in the blink of an eye? Friendships. It takes years and years to build a genuine, true friendship. It takes years of trust and confidence in the other person. As those years go by and that trust and confidence grows and is strengthened, the mighty bond of friendship solidifies. Notice some verses from Proverbs 27 about friendship: Verse 6 **"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."** Verses 9-10 **"Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest council. Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away."**

We all recognize that true friendship is a wonderful thing, but is it something that just happens? Absolutely not! It requires a great deal of work and a great deal of effort. However, who among us that has experienced the joy of true friendship would ever say that it is not worth every bit

of the effort? Notice what we read in Proverbs 18:24. **“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”** Do you want to read a verse that speaks to the very essence of true friendship? Notice Proverbs 17:17. **“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”**

Having said all of this, how long does it take to “explode” a friendship? It takes about as long as it takes for one of the friends to forget what being a friend is all about. Have you ever had a friend who suddenly just seemed to stop caring about your needs and desires? A friend who began to put themselves before you in every aspect of life? Are you still friends with that individual? Really, truly friends with them?

It is very sad when a good reputation is “exploded” due to ungodly actions and thoughtless words. What good comes from it? What benefit do we receive when a friendship that has spanned decades is suddenly ruined because of unkind words and an unwillingness to put our friends before ourselves? Through the explosion of certain things, such as that old stadium on the riverfront, progress is made. Through the explosion of other things, such as reputations and friendships, only tragedy occurs. Hold fast what is *really* important.

In Need of Prayers	General Information
<p>Sharon Tirey continues her cancer treatments.</p> <p>Remember Kristy Kidd in her pregnancy.</p> <p>Remember Kristen Osterling’s unborn baby.</p> <p>Remember David Blakeman and his health concerns.</p> <p>Pamela Clayton has been sent home to spend her final days with her family.</p> <p>Rachel Knollman’s tests will take place the first week of August.</p> <p>Robin Miller will have the final portion of her reconstructive surgery (breast cancer) in early September.</p>	<p>Remember the men’s meeting this afternoon at 4.</p> <p>The Bible Summer Series begins today with brother Casey Head. There are still some invitation cards in the back. Please make your plans to attend and bring your children!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Height Church of Christ 445 Columbia Avenue Lexington, Ky 40508 859-255-6257</p>

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