

## **Day 184 – Sunday, September 20 – Car Shopping**

Since my accident, the doctor asked me to get a blood pressure machine and take my blood pressure twice a day. So as I eat my Vector cereal every morning, I take my blood pressure. This morning I put it on, pressed the switch and it took a very long time to read. It was 156/130, that seemed unusual so I took another, then another, and another. In the end I probably took five different readings...all different. I will have to ask a few nurses whether you can take a blood pressure reading twice in a row.

Perhaps it had something to do with yesterday. Yesterday I asked a friend of mine whether he would take me car shopping. I never like car shopping at the best of time, and after two hours I was completely exhausted. We went to all the places I initially wanted, and checked out a number of vehicles. Never bought one, but got some good lines on some. One was a 2015 Kia Sorento, 135,000 kms, but they are putting in a new motor (on warranty) and they will want \$13,500. It seems like a good deal, but doesn't get the gas mileage that I was hoping I would get. So if you have a line on any good vehicles, or know anything about Kia's let me know.

But it got me to thinking, what happens to our blood pressure when we have to do something we would rather not. Or more importantly, what do we do when God asks us to do something we would rather not. I mean look at Jesus, he prayed, and prayed hard in the garden that the cup of suffering, and crucifixion would pass him by, but in the end, his prayer was that the Father's will be done.

We live in a very "Me" centered world. One in which "We" are the center of the world, and we chose to do whatever we want whenever we want, and we cry out in protest whenever we are not able to do whatever we want whenever we want. But true freedom is not to do whatever we want whenever we want. True freedom is letting go of our desires and hanging onto that which the Father asks us to do.

Now I am not saying this is easy. I will be the first to say, "I absolutely love setting my own agenda." (It is one of the reasons I became a diocesan priest and not a religious priest.) But I also know that when I follow my own agenda, rather than God's agenda...well lets just say, that is when things begin screwing up. The parable in today's gospel is the workers in the vineyard. Let us always strive to be as generous with our time and talents, as God is generous with his time and talents.

*In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein