

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher! Stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle

Alarm Clocks

by Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer

Did you happen to oversleep this morning? Are you in the habit of hitting the snooze button before rolling out of bed?

Myself, I love hitting the snooze alarm. But not as much as a certain college student whom I read about recently. This young woman was in the habit of slamming the snooze alarm for a couple of hours before climbing out of bed. One day, she decided to do something about it.

Using information from a class in robotics, the young woman built a robotic alarm clock on wheels. She painted a face on the robot and named it Clocky. Now-a-days, Clocky the Alarm Clock sits on her night stand where he allows the young woman to hit his snooze button...once. Then Clocky goes and hides...and she has to find him!

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus indicates that, in place of hitting the snooze button, it's better to start each day with gratitude and praise. He says to us: "Look at the birds of the air, they neither sew or spin." In other words, they punch no time clocks, they pay no taxes! They have NO ALARM CLOCKS! They do not reach for SNOOZE BUTTONS!!

Yet, their heavenly Father cares for them.

Would that we could all wake up in that side of bed! The side with no worries. No problems at work. No preoccupations at home. No punch clock. No pavements to pound. No plans to prove oneself competent.

Do you wake up saying, "Oh God, not another day!" Or, "Thank you for another day, oh God!" At the break of dawn, is your first inclination to hit the snooze button...or to hit your knees?

If we are not careful and diligent in cultivating "an attitude of gratitude" in our spiritual life, it is easy to lose perspective of all that God provides. Without faith and trust in God, we end up living in fear. The fear of never having enough. The fear of never being enough.

"Look at the birds of the air and the lilies of the field," says the Lord. "Your heavenly Father provides all they need. Set your hearts of my Kingdom, and you will have all that you need. And more. More than you can possibly imagine."

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