

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon

June 5, 2024

"Washing Dishes"



One of my first jobs was at Piggy's Place Pit Bar B Que. As with any restaurant, there were lots of dishes, and we washed all of them by hand. At first, I would get overwhelmed by the piles of dirty dishes and scraps. Since Piggy's made their own sauces, beans, and cole slaw, there were many pots to clean. The sauce pot always had burned spots, which required scrubbing until it was gone.

Some nights, the dishes seemed endless. Just about the time I thought I was getting to the end of the pile, another stack of pans would appear seemingly out of nowhere. I learned essential lessons from washing dishes. The most memorable is that no matter how big the stack is, you must wash one dish at a time.

When life begins to pile up around me, like those dishes on Piggy's counter, I try to focus on what most needs doing in the moment. I can't wash two dishes at a one time; multi-tasking is a myth.

There never was a night at Piggy's when we left without cleaning all the dishes. It took a while, but eventually we came to the end, at least until the next day. Each of us has essential work to do, and it's easy to look at the piles and think, "Am I making any difference?" Do one thing at a time: wash a dish, wipe a child's fevered brow, endeavor to keep going when others opt out or you encounter a detour, hold the hand of someone you love. From moment to moment, one building on the other is how we create a good day.

Blessings,