

## The Take-Away



We went from church straight to a restaurant for our Sunday lunch. A number of people were waiting in line for a seat at the popular restaurant. As Kathy and I waited some people noticed we were dressed appropriately for church. A young lady asked if we had just been to church today. I quickly answered “yes.” Of course I had been – that was obvious, I thought. Then came the question: “What did you learn in church today?” It was a simple question, but it caught me off guard. It was intended as a friendly gesture but it hit me square between the eyes. I wasn’t ready to answer. Rushing from church to the restaurant I hadn’t stopped to reach conclusions about what I had experienced that morning. To be honest, I stammered a bit as I tried to give an answer.

It is easy to give the pat answer to questions about church. I can communicate my faith in general terms. But, what if I am asked the direct question: What did I learn **today**? What part of the service – today – had an impact on my life? Was I engaged in the service today, or had I mentally checked out? Did I listen closely to the sermon, readings and music so that today’s service had made a lasting impression on me? And what about Sunday School? Did I learn something new there? It doesn’t matter if I heard the same scripture verse for 50 or 60 years I can understand something more fully each time it is read.

Don’t attend church on auto pilot, thinking physical attendance is enough. Were you there mentally? Don’t let the service be a blur in your memory bank as you begin your week.

As you exit the church next Sunday ask yourself the simple question: what did I learn in church today?” If you can honestly answer that question you will know what God is saying to you - today.

Then, go and enjoy a wonderful Sunday lunch, and perhaps awaken someone else with the question, “What did you learn in church today.”

**Scripture:** *Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance (Proverbs 1:5).*

**Question:** What did you learn in church last Sunday?

**Prayer:** Lord. It is easy to go on auto-pilot and not truly listen to the message at church. Help us to be attentive so that we will hear what you are saying to me through worship.