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We Sell-Short and Get Short-Changed

(SERIES: The 4 Dumbest Things We Do During Down Times: 03 of 04)
by Dr. David Foster

“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, ‘Look! This is something new’? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow. I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. . . . I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a **chasing after the wind.**” (Ecclesiastes 1 NIV)

3 Things That Are Never True . . .

Those who **opt for the quick fix** win.

Those who **take short cuts** win.

Those who **think with their stomachs** win.

“The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, ‘Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!’ Jacob replied, ‘First sell me your birthright.’ ‘*Look, I am about to die.*’ Esau said. ‘What good is the birthright to me?’ Jacob said, ‘Swear to me first.’ So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So **Esau despised his birthright.**” (Genesis 25:27-32 NIV)

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3 Things That Are Mostly True . . .

To a point, it is true **you can begin again.**

To a point, it is true **life is a do-over.**

To a point, it is true **there is always next time.**

3 Unbreakable Laws

The law of **cause and effect.**

“**Do not judge**, and you will not be judged. **Do not condemn**, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ***Give, and it will be given to you.*** A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:37-38 NIV)

The law of **sowing and reaping.**

“Remember: **A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop.** I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, The Message)

The law of **delayed gratification.**

“The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:8-9 NIV)

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