

Everything could Change in an Instant Community Comment Mike Goldsby
March 29, 2012

Everything can change in an instant. I know that on some level but there is a routine to each day that can lull me into a ~~routine and~~ *forgetting* ~~make me forget~~ that. Everything can change in an instant.

A very good friend passed away suddenly last week. Ken Meece was a former colleague and a long time friend. Fellow Commentator Dan Price honored Ken on Community Comment last week. I had lunch with Ken two weeks ago. His Parkinson's disease was a problem but I was most impressed by his zest for life. He decided to learn more about quantum physics so he launched into a class that excited him. He decided to memorize the names of the Egyptian pharaohs, in order, ranked by dynasty. He was researching Shakespeare, using Facebook to connect with like minded people, making new friends and renewing old friendships.

Then he was gone, died suddenly at home. Our monthly lunch or dinner meetings are over. And Ken is off learning about other cosmic mysteries. He has been inspirational to me; To be a better listener, to never stop learning, no matter your age, to read more and make new friends. I miss him but I do not have regrets because I did stay in touch.

Everything can change in an instant. This week, 68 people at a local healthcare system were laid off. This happened to me six years ago and I can relate to the turmoil caused by the loss of a job. I found losing my job both terrifying and liberating. It made me grateful that I was fortunate enough to have internal and external resources to bear on the situation. I had to be resourceful, diligent and focused. I had to constantly deal with the rejection that is inherent in looking for work yet stay optimistic. I had to use my support group of family and friends and business contacts.

I was not seeking to reinvent myself in my 50's, but, in an instant, I had no choice. I am better for it but I don't recommend it as a growth opportunity.

Everything can change in an instant. A year ago, Japan experienced the destruction of a huge earthquake and the resulting tsunami. And the western United States experienced a tsunami hours later. One minute life is going along smoothly and an instant later nature changes all of that.

I considered this during the tsunami drill yesterday morning. Chances are some of you participated in the drill and you put some thought and some action into tsunami preparation. But chances are most of you did not, and perhaps even viewed it as an inconvenience.

Earthquakes and tsunamis do not give warnings, like hurricanes and tornadoes. When this happens, you will be glad that you put some thought and preparation in place. Check out the new detailed tsunami maps. You might be surprised. My home and my place of work are both outside of the tsunami threat zone. The roads connecting the two are not. An actual tsunami would present a real problem for me and I am prepared as best as possible, with appropriate supplies at home, at work and in my car.

Because, everything could change in an instant.

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment