

The Reflection of Time



Tick-Tock, Tick-Tock, the sun peaked over a small prairie hill at the crack of dawn. Time ticked on as my heart began to beat faster and faster. I slowly pulled my sleeping bag over my head, praying to God, that my dad would forget about me, enabling me to sleep in, at least until the dew was off the ground. Regardless of

my attempt to become invisible he remembered me. My mom handed me a drink, sack lunch, and sunscreen as we left for the day trip. Within moments we were bounding toward the spot we thought would produce our limit. A few moments earlier I was hiding under the covers but now on an adventure scoping out the lake.

As a child our fishing trips held many expectations from catching the granddaddy of them all to a boat filled with fish. At times our limit was caught and other times the net was left dry. While fishing the sun moved from one side of the horizon to the other and many lessons were learned, some the hard way. Lessons: When using a bottom bouncer make sure your line is out far enough to bounce on the bottom. Your net should be within arm's reach before needed and, finally, use a lot of sunscreen to prevent looking like a well prepared lobster.

Now as an adult reflecting on those day trips one of the most valuable lessons captured was summarized in a quote written well before our time. Theophrastus stated that, "Time is the most valuable thing you can spend." How true that is. All of those days spent on the water whether we reached our limit or gave all the tackle to the weeds we were capturing time between a parent and child. We were connecting. The countless questions I must have asked him, from the stars and the planets to religion. I also asked him about the decisions to make in life along those years. The real connection came from the silence and just being together.

Nowadays we make our lives busier than ever before. Making time and taking time are priceless to the ones we love. Now we take our children to the lake and I see the value in getting out on the water. A friend of mine recently mentioned they are going to buy a boat so that they can spend time out on the lake with their children before the kids don't care to spend the weekends with them. Make memories today and they will want to come back later. At times education has its limits as wisdom comes from experience and those who have lived wisely. Memories endure for a lifetime replayed in our mind and shared with those with whom we now spend our time.

Today when Dad and I are out in the boat, a distant memory floats in the reflecting water; captured for a moment. I realize he didn't forget about me on those early mornings.

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