

A Lost Opportunity

Here's a story of a man who had a great opportunity that he missed.

His friend took him for a ride one day, way out in the country. They drove off the main road and wound through groves of trees to a large, uninhabited expanse of land. A few horses were grazing, and a couple of old shacks, about ready to fall in, were the only signs that someone once lived here.

The friend, Walter, stopped the car, got out, and started to describe – with great vividness – the wonderful things he was going to build. He wanted his friend, Arthur, to buy some of the land surrounding his project, to get in on the ground floor.



But Arthur thought to himself, “Who in the world is going to drive 25 miles for this crazy project? The logistics of the venture are staggering.”

Insistent, Walter explained to his friend, Arthur: “I can handle the main project myself. But it will take all my money. This land bordering it, where we’re standing now, will, in just a couple of years, be jammed with hotels and restaurants and convention halls to accommodate the people who will come to spend their entire vacation here at my park.”

At that point, Walter said to Arthur: “I want you to have the first chance at this surrounding acreage, because in the next five years it will increase in value several hundred times.”

“What could I say?” Arthur later told friends. “I knew he was wrong. I knew that he had let this dream get the best of his common sense, so I mumbled something about a tight-money situation, and promised that I would look into the whole thing a little later on.”

“Later on will be too late,” Walter cautioned Arthur as they walked back to the car. “You’d better move on it right now.”

And so Art Linkletter turned down the opportunity to buy up all the property that surrounded what was to become Disneyland.

His friend, Walt Disney, tried to talk him into it. But Art thought he was crazy.

(more)

Art Linkletter (1912 – 2010), son of an evangelical preacher, was a Canadian-born American radio and television personality who was the host of *House Party* on CBS radio and television for 25 years, and *People Are Funny* on NBC radio and TV for 19 years.

He was a keynote speaker for Life Care in 1992 for the annual management meeting and in 1993 to the annual meeting of directors of nursing.

To these Life Care audiences, Linkletter told the story about his friendship with Disney and the chance his friend gave him to make millions of dollars. “It goes to show my ability to see into the future, and my lack of faith in my friend’s vision,” he chuckled.

What about you? Are there times in your past when opportunity knocked and you didn’t open the door? Are you facing a decision now that would help you reach some dream?

And in the work we are called to do in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we have many chances to serve, to make a difference in the lives of the people entrusted to us – to create opportunities for them.



Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter