

Jodie Foster and Popcorn

Jeff Van Gundy is a former basketball coach – most recently, the head coach of the Houston Rockets of the National Basketball Association – who since 2007 has been covering the playoffs for ESPN in the broadcast booth.

When Gundy was attending Yale University, he learned a valuable lesson the hard way. Ira Berkow wrote about it in the *New York Times*.

Living in a dorm across the quadrangle from Van Gundy in New Haven was the actress, Jodie Foster, also a Yale freshman. The 12 students on Van Gundy's floor had put up \$100 each and the total would go to the one who got a legitimate date with her.



"I had seen her around," Van Gundy said, "but was too shy to engage her in conversation and then ask her out."

One evening, on his way back to the dorm, Van Gundy was walking by a store that made popcorn, and a voice behind him said, "Geez, that popcorn smells really good."

Van Gundy turned around, and it was Jodie Foster. "Yeah, it does," he said. And that was it!

"Finally, one guy had the guts to ask her out, and she went with him," Van Gundy said, shaking his head in sorrow, even after all those years. "He got the \$1,200. But I vowed that I would never be that flustered, or that unprepared, again."

Many opportunities in life come suddenly. We should be eager to recognize them for what they are, and take advantage of what is before us.

God presents us with divine appointments. Maybe it is an occasion to extend an encouraging word, or help someone laugh in the midst of a difficult day, or – as the Bible suggests – offer a glass of cold water in the name of Jesus. Perhaps it could even be sharing the good news of a saving relationship with Christ that totally changes someone's life.

All kinds of opportunities do come our way. Be ready.

– Beecher Hunter