

"Run Out of Town!"

April 25, 2004

Once every year the little town of Wellesley gains the national spotlight because it is exactly at the half-way mark of the famous Boston Marathon. As a matter of fact, the exact point of 13.1 miles happens to be right in front of a restaurant that my oldest daughter worked as a waitress at for several years! This year's race was particularly grueling because of the extreme heat - it actually reached 86 degrees in downtown Boston so it was easily in the upper 80's if not 90 degrees in Wellesley.

Wellesley-ites have one of two reactions to the race - they either completely embrace its invasion of their town or they literally run out of town - they high tail it out and don't come back until the runners are long gone. This year, I chose to high tail it out of town and go to the beach!

The obvious analogy - "life is a marathon - take it one step at a time" is good advice MOST of the time. But there also has to be a place for passion in your life - a time when you do run out ahead of the field - a time when you do put yourself out on a limb by not waiting around for data or people to back you up.

A couple of months ago I was symbolically "run out of town" in the newspaper and on my answering machine because of my stand against gay marriage. I'm sure a more measured response - a more cautious response - a "well, let's take this whole debate one step at a time because this whole issue involves a marathon of discussion" approach would have made me far more "acceptable" in most people's eyes. However, after viewing "The Passion of the Christ", I'm quite sure Jesus did NOT take a "one step at a time" type approach to sin - in a breathtakingly short period of time, He stepped on the head of that old serpent Satan and carried our sins to the Cross and then died for them. Hardly what I would call a "measured" response - that's why we refer to it as the PASSION of Jesus.

Friends, if your opinion of Jesus is "measured, cautious, one step at a time", then maybe it's time you run that opinion right out of town. The Lord's coming back - sooner rather than later - and you might just find yourself either at the starting line or still in a "marathon" of decision making!