

July 10, 2022

Scott's Thoughts



“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.” (Genesis 4:7, ESV)

I can remember the day with clarity. My phone rang and it was my primary care provider. The doctor had ordered a sonogram of my spleen as a precaution because my platelet count was low and had been for some time. It was not causing any trouble but just to be on the safe side he had ordered the sonogram. The results were back and showed no abnormality with my spleen, but they didn't like something they saw on my kidney. That was five years ago. All this led to a CT scan of my right kidney so they could get a better look at what concerned them on the sonogram. I was not worried about anything. I felt great and I was two years past a lifesaving operation. The results of the CT scan came back positive for Cancer. You can sit with people you know and love and comfort them when they find out they have cancer, but hearing that you have cancer is a whole different situation.

I was sent to a surgeon who explained that because of the location of the cancer on the kidney and the possibility of spreading the cancer they had decided to remove the whole kidney rather than just removing the cancer. The procedure worked. They were able to remove the kidney with the cancer completely encapsulated. I did not need any chemo or

radiation treatments.

All of that was five years ago so for the last five years I have made a number of visits to an oncologist first at six-month intervals and for the last couple of years only once a year. Each of these has not taken long but have included a CT scan of my abdomen. I'm looking forward to July 19 this year because if all goes well this will be my last visit because the risk of this cancer returning at this point is low enough they will cease monitoring for this disease.

I have thought about cancer a lot over the last few years. There was never any cancer in my family history until my youngest sister had breast cancer then, just a short time later, my cancer showed. Two years ago the older of my two sisters was discovered to have breast cancer. Thankfully, all three of us were diagnosed early enough to be successfully treated.

Cancer is often the silent killer and is often only detected by accident. Sometimes it is caught and taken care of before it is too late. Others have ignored the symptoms for so long that treatment is ineffective, and they lose the battle. Regular checkups are key to surviving.

Sin is another silent killer, and we often fail to deal with it until it is too late. Maybe it's time for a checkup.

“Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”” (Exodus 20:20, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott