

A True Gift

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that's why they call it the present." -Unknown

To me, this quote is very important. It means that you should always cherish the days you have. Even if its a boring, or you have to do something you don't want to, that day was another day of living. Living is the best present of all, I found that out when my brother got into a serious accident.

One day in August, our friend Brian Araki asked if my brother would like to race a go-kart for the day. Gladly, we accepted. My dad, my brother, Sean, and I headed to the Fresno fairgrounds. The first day Sean did really well, considering it was his very first time. Unfortunately, the second day was horrible. During the main race, two karts got into a wreck, and one went airborne. With nowhere to go, Sean zoomed under the kart, but he was too slow. The kart's tire hit Sean in the chest as he went under. My brother is very tall and skinny. The effect was really bad.

Sean collapsed his left lung. The doctors thought it was minor. They sent him home and told him to come back the next day for an x-ray to check on his lungs progress. When we left the hospital my parents, Sean, and I went to Foster's Freeze. While eating Sean dropped a fry on his shirt.

"Ha. Idiot." I said rudely.

"You know, I could be dead right now!" Sean reminded me.

"Yeah, but you're not."

The next we went to go take Sean's x-ray. Bad news. The doctors were all wrong. Sean's lung didn't get better at all, only worse. His lung was now 50% collapsed. He was immediately put into a room and he had a machine to help him breathe. I felt extremely bad about what I had said the day before. This is the moment when I realized that you don't get a chance to "redo" the past. The next day, Sean had to get a tube in his lung to help it heal. After the surgery, I walked into the room. Sean was so scared because he didn't know what would happen next. Him and my mom were crying. I approached the bed.

"Everything is going to be okay." I said reassuringly.

Sean smiled then looked at his heart rate and smiled again.

"You made my heart rate go up! I love you, sis."

"I love you too, Sean!" I was really thrilled to hear that I made him happy.

Now, Sean is doing great! He's attending NASCAR Technical Institute in North Carolina. Living his dream! Fortunately, he has a job with Kasey Kahne, a famous NASCAR driver. A million other people would love to have an opportunity like his! Kasey even asked him recently to be on one of his Sprint Car teams (Kasey owns three

Sprint Cars.) This weekend, March 20th, Sean will be going to Tennessee with the rest of the team!

This experience has taught me a lot about life. Never regret a day you lived. Never take another moment for granted. Enjoy everyday, because you always get a present, just waking up in the mornings and being alive.

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