Brandon K. Hemphill

Memoir

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I am a man who cannot be defined by my appearance but only by actions. I am not perfect but I am persistent, focusing on sharpening myself and walking in the light of God. My name is Brandon Hemphill and my story is unique, challenging, and beautiful in its own way. The definition of beautiful is an individual perspective based on our experiences in this world and through what we each know it to be. As you step in, you will find the unique challenges that have refined me into the man I am today.

Sometimes, I ashamedly admit that I am a man of few talents but maybe that is because I really do not have a lot of recreational time. I am constantly working with school, at Brothers Management and trying my best to keep up with friends. I believe that with great conviction, that even though I find having to support myself financially to get through school to be vigorous, it plays part in the man that I am today. In high school, I was the only one of my friends who had to work. At the age of 15, I longed for a new car and freedom but was told that driving is a privilege and I would be held monetarily responsible for my insurance, gas and repairs.

As a result, I am a firm believer that my work ethic was a by-product of my time spent at my previous employer, Market Street. It almost sounds undesirable, but I sometimes obsess over my work and ensuring that I do the best that I possibly can. Though I have been successful in learning the value of money and paying bills, I sometimes wonder if I have invested in friendships or relationships like I should. My friends would get upset with me, because when they wanted to hang out, I had to work. Likewise, my time in college has been comparable. I have great friends in my fraternity and those whom I have met through classes, but honestly I have not had a lot of time to invest in them, hanging out, taking part in collegiate activities that others frequently enjoy. I have learned a lot about myself during my time at Baylor, and know now that I am one who has a few very close friends rather than lots of acquaintances.

My Mother and Father have been a source of continuous support in my life and have taught me not only the importance of working hard but also helped guide me spiritually. Without my faith in Jesus Christ, I would not be the kind of man I am today. It is often hard to be intentional about spending each day with investing in my faith, but I know that it is crucial to being the man I am ultimately called to be. Many of my friends do not realize the significance of this, but it is a great opportunity to be a leader to those around me. Whether it is a friend or coworker who needs help or setting an example for those I am in daily contact with, I know that the Lord is teaching me, guiding me and using me for His purpose.

Even though I sometimes feel like I do not have what those around me have in regard to friendships and possessions, I know that I am indeed a blessed man because of those who continually support me. I have been learning throughout college that having assets and friends to spend time with is enjoyable, but that I am more focused on having something that is eternal and spending time with those who will better me in all walks of life.