

Rick Elias Hudson River Plane Crash

IMAGINE a big explosion as you climb through 3,000 feet, imagine a plane full of smoke, imagine an engine going CLACK< CLACK CLACK, it sounds scary

I had a unique seat that day 1B and I was the only one who could talk with the flight attendants, so I looked at them and they said no problem we probably hit some birds, the pilot had already turned the plane around and we were closer we could already see NYC

2 minutes later 3 things happened at the same time:

1. the pilot lines up the plane with the Hudson river, (not the usual route)
2. he turns off the engines and imagine hearing no sounds on the plane
3. the pilot says the most unemotional 3 words he ever heard, Brace for impact

He did not need to talk with the flight attendant anymore he saw terror in her eyes, life was over

I want to share with you three things I learned about myself that day

I learned that it all changes in an instant (we have a bucket list and what we want to do in our life), all the fences I wanted to rebuild, all the experiences I wanted to have and never did

Later on I came up with the saying of the 3 things I learned that day:

1. **I collect bad wines: if the wine is ready and the person is there I want to open the wine, I no longer want to postpone anything**, this purpose and urgency has changed my life
2. As we cleared the George Washington Bridge by not a lot: I would only feel one regret: **I regretted the time I wasted in things that did not matter with people who mattered.** I have lived a good life but in my humanity I realized the time I have wasted with people who mattered. I realized I have let my ego get in the way and I thought about my relationship with my wife and my friends and **I decided to eliminate negative energy. I no longer need to be right, I choose to be happy**
3. As you are coming down and your mental clock sees you approaching the end and you are saying 15, 14, 13.... You can see the water coming and you think please blow up I don't want this plane to break into 20 pieces like you see on documentaries. **I had a sense that dying is not scary, it is as if we had been preparing for it all my life but it was sadness framed in one thought: I only wish I could see my kids grow up.**

A month later I was at a performance of my 1st grader at school (not much artistic talent, YET) and I was crying like a little kid and I connected the dots and I realized that the only thing that mattered in my life, is to be a good dad, above all, the only goal in my life is to be a great dad

I was given the gift of a miracle of not dying that day and I was given another gift of being able to see the future, and come back and live differently

I challenge you guys who are flying today:

imagine the same thing happened in your flight today? how would you change your relationships today, what would you get done today that you are putting off because you think you have tomorrow and more than anything are you being the best parent you can be?