

DO HARD THINGS!

Outline

Introduction

- A little bit about myself, how I came to Ignite, what God has done in my life (transition from high school to first year of college to second year to present time)
- Doing Hard Things & my vision for it on campus

Five Kinds of Hard Things

#1: Things that are outside your comfort zone.

- This one is always necessary to do the other four hard things
- God works through our weakness to accomplish His big plans!
 - Story of Moses & his weakness before God - Exodus 3:11-14
- When we refuse to go outside our comfort zone, we're saying that God isn't good & powerful enough to help us do something we can't comfortably do on our own
- We will never venture out of our comfort zone if we wait until fear and feelings of inadequacy go away! The worst thing is to never try at all.
 - It's cliché but you miss 100% of the shots you don't take
 - You can't achieve success without risking failure!
 - Driving a car for example: I hated it at first, and thought I'd never be good but now I am completely comfortable.
- The first step is a scary one, but getting out of our comfort zone will ultimately lead to some of the most memorable and rewarding experiences in our lives!

#2: Things that go beyond what is expected or required.

- Complacency & how it brings us down
 - Three strategies for combatting complacency:
 - 1) Do what's hard for you.
 - 2) Be known for what you do (more than for what you don't do)
 - 3) Pursue excellence, NOT excuses
- Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance for the Lord as a reward."
- The implication of this is huge because it means we give our best effort for God's sake rather than for other people's sake.
- Once we grasp this, we will have confidence in everything we do for God's glory because He has promised us an eternal reward in heaven greater than any earthly reward!

#3: Things that are too big to accomplish alone.

- Nehemiah & the building of the walls in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:15-16)
 - The wall was completed in fifty-two days, *despite opposition*

- The surrounding nations were afraid because God was with the Israelites during their work building the wall
- God has made all of us to be more effective when we work in fellowship with others!!!
- Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.”
- Some will lead ministries, others will help the poor & needy, while others will give gifts out of the joy in their hearts to others
- God has called me to lead Ignite, but I could never do it in my own strength. He has given me His son Jesus to cover my sins and give me strength in my weakness. He has given me a group of fellow believers to lean on and support me and speak wisdom and life to me when my burden is heavy.

#4: Things that don't earn an immediate payoff.

- Ex: Doing your daily reading for classes; prayer
- We cut corners that we don't even realize because we have become so desensitized-we want immediate gratification
- How many of you took classes that got you college credit?
- You didn't receive college credit while in those classes but later you were rewarded!
- Again, Colossians 3:23-24 & 1 Corinthians 10:31, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

#5: Things that challenge the cultural norm.

- This is by far the most difficult, but also very powerful!
 - 1) Start with the Bible
 - 2 Tim 3:16 says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
 - 2) Examine yourself - make sure you practice what you preach
 - 3) Listen to your conscience - our conscience is our God-given sense of what is right & what is wrong; through reading Scripture it becomes more finely tuned
 - 4) Seek godly counsel
 - 5) Be humble, loving, and bold
 - 6) Be part of the solution
 - Don't just show people that their current direction is wrong, but make it your goal to model God's way-it's way more effective!

Conclusion

- My challenge to you all: Now is the time to stand!
 - Joshua 24:15 “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!”

Now let's get into groups of 6-7 people and discuss!

Discussion Questions

- What is one thing I can do this year to step outside my comfort zone?
- Out of the five areas of doing hard things, which is my strongest area? How can I magnify my strength in this area to make an impact here at PLU this year?
- Out of the five areas of doing hard things, which is my weakest area? How can I work to improve in this area throughout this year?

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