

01/30/2018

“Fix My Eyes”

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

Sermon: Marian and Todd Harvey

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Hebrews 12:1-2

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

I remember...it was a Thursday.

I had a plan for my day of doing my usual Thursday chores, laundry, clean the bathrooms, ready my adult Sunday School lesson, perhaps even have a moment to sit on my porch and drink in the sunshine that had so gloriously poured down after three days of gray and rain.

Then, it began...shortly after rising I had a call from daughter #2...she had left something she ABSOLUTELY needed for work at home and would I be so kind as to go to her house and bring it to her at school. ASAP! ...Sure, I can do that...

After hanging up from that call, I received an urgent call from one of the Board Members of a Non-Profit for which I was the President stating he had arranged a face to face with a potential MAJOR corporate donor. Great, I said. When? TODAY...and only TODAY... Sure... I will make that work...

As I was fixing to go get the needed item for daughter # 2, then figure in time to deliver her item ASAP and get my retired self looking corporate enough for a lunch meeting with a MAJOR donor, my husband, comes in from outside and says his truck battery is dead and he needs me to help him JUMP it with my car. Sure, I can do that...

Returning inside, I quickly checked my email for the talking points I'd need for my lunch meeting that my Board member had shared with me. And as I opened Google Mail, I was bombarded with 6 other emails of "URGENT" need, ONE of which was that my Ford Edge was dangerously overdue for an oil change and MOST URGENTLY...that my \$20 in KOHLS CASH was going to expire TODAY! Well...I can't let THAT happen!!

Everybody wants a piece of me!

Do you ever feel like this? Given the multiple hats we wear, and the pace of life, I'm sure this feeling is one to which you all can relate.

In the world, this age of technology and instant communication, we feel compelled to DO IT ALL, and DO IT

ALL NOW... But is what I'm doing what I SHOULD be doing?

How do I know where to go and what to do? Well, to illustrate this, let's look at a very interestingly busy creature, the ANT.

<https://youtu.be/ACPU2AuST18>

How do I know where to go and what to do? Moses felt that when God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

David must have felt this distress when he was anointed as

King. A simple fisherman named Simon Peter and his

companions must have felt this way as well, when Jesus

asked them to leave their boats and livelihood and follow

Him. I imagine Lisa Malin felt that the first time she directed

the children's Christmas Play... or Tom Duffy and Joyce

Stansfield when they took on the Rotating Shelter here at

our church.

I know Todd and I felt that way when we were asked to lead the Sunday School some 15 years ago...Whaaaaat??? How will we do that???

The first weekend of January, our Youth Group was blessed to be with over 3,000 youth at the 2018 Peninsula Delaware Conference Youth Rally. We'd like to share some of the lessons we learned from our time there as it is so aligned to our message this morning:

*When we went to the Youth Rally this year, we learned that this race called LIFE is really a Marathon. But many times, we live it like it's a sprint. We learned that we need to CARB UP: Just as running a marathon often begins with eating lots of carbs, like bread and pasta, in order to provide your body enough **energy** to run such a long and grueling race, so, too, do we **have to put our whole faith in the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ** so that we might begin the race of faith to eternal life.*

*After you have CARBED UP and devoted your life to Jesus, you will experience peaks and valleys in your life. Peaks are moments in your life where your spiritual relationship with Jesus is at a high, whereas valleys are low moments in your life where your relationship with Jesus might be tested.*

*Moments like these are expected in your walk with God, **but God will never leave you nor give you more than you can handle.***

*We should all become fishers of people, finding opportunities in our lives to spread the Word. We are all surrounded by people in need of the Gospel: In our jobs, in school, and even in our homes, churches and communities. As we align our goals with God's, our number one priority should be to offer salvation to people. As Paul stated in Acts 20:24, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord*

*Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the good news of God's Grace."*

So, in order to run this Marathon called life, we need to **fix our eyes on Him** and **listen** for His call as he speaks to our hearts... and be that ANT...stop...pause...look up to the SON...Fix you eyes on Him...

Take a moment right now... close your eyes and breathe... listen to that still small voice...

Going back to describing my manic Thursday morning, as I was checking my emails ... That's when a call came on my husband's phone... He rushed in the kitchen saying that a dear friend of ours was nearing the end of his life journey and would we please come AT ONCE to sit with him and comfort his wife... and... I heard it... I knew...that STILL SMALL VOICE ... God calling... ABSOLUTELY, we can do that...

My friends, you have a God who loves you beyond measure.

He's calling each of us...Listen to that still small voice...

OWN His message to you...not your neighbors

message...not your brother's or sister's message...

**HIS MESSAGE TO YOU.**

Fix YOUR Eyes on HIM...he's calling...

RUN your life journey with Him before you...

Do this...

And your race is already won!

Amen.