



January 18, 2015

Step Up...Jump or Dive

Introduction

We often come to a decision in our circumstances of life. I have to decide whether I'm going to pull back or dive in. Our anchor verse is Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Learning to step up and do the right hard things in life brings great rewards.

Discussion Questions

1. We are challenged to step up, go beyond what is expected, do the "hard things" and fight complacency. In general what are some "hard things" most people are dealing with? What "hard things" are present in your life? How does complacency rear its ugly head in doing the "hard right thing?"
2. Expectations are blinded by complacency such as rationalization, satisfaction with the familiar, fear of failure, fear of the unknown, and pride in disguise. What steps does a person need to take to move from just surviving to thriving?
3. One repeated aspect of complacency is settling for average because of the fear of failure. Romans 8:37 was cited by David to remind everyone that "we are more than conquerors." How should knowing we are a "conqueror through Him" help us fight complacency?
4. One way to go beyond expectations is to be known for what you do more than what you don't do. As you reflect on what Noah did, what can you learn from his unwavering steadfastness to do the hard thing? How did the "hard thing" make him more known for what he did?
5. God has high expectations for us. As a Christ follower, what are some of God's expectations for you? In what ways does God give you strength to meet those expectations?
6. God had high expectations for Noah, like building an ark! In Genesis 6-9 Noah repeatedly did what God commanded him to do. What challenging job/task or ark is before you? What effect does/will this have on your family, employment, business, church, etc.? How can your small group pray for you?

Conclusion

We need to KNOW God's expectations, ACKNOWLEDGE them, and then COMMIT to chasing them. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11