**THIS OR THAT**

**PART 7 - A LIFE OF EXCELLENCE**

**PERSONAL NOTES**

OPEN

1. Welcome to our online campus.
2. We are just 19 days from 2016!
3. Last week we talked about Living With Integrity.
4. In our world of choices – THIS OR THAT – One of the greatest influences upon the outcome and fruit of our life is the CHOICE we make in HOW we are going to DO SOMETHING.
5. Do it mediocre?
6. Do it 90%?
7. Do it GOOD?
8. OR – DO IT WITH EXCELLENCE??
9. One of the most REWARDING things in life is excellence!
10. FOOD: Do you prefer a good hamburger VS Excellent hamburger
11. SERVICE: Waiters? 800 Customer Service?
12. QUALITY: Do you prefer cheaply built house VS excellence in construction
13. PUBLIC RESTROOM: Do you prefer a gas station or a Chic Fil A?
14. RELATIONSHIPS: Marriage, friendships?
15. One of the most FRUSTRATING things in life is LACK of excellence
16. WHY? When people, things, or situations don’t meet up with our expectations of quality.
17. Why are husbands and wives frustrated at one another? One or both are not living a life of excellence.

* The higher level of excellence I live; the less Kim has to complain about!!!

1. The higher level of excellence I live as an employee – the less my boss has to complain about me.
2. EX: plastic lids for paper cups (Have a stack)
3. A spirit of excellence is a virtue we need in every facet of life – from the smallest to the greatest!
4. This pursuit of excellence is birthed from our creator. Is there anything God did? He created? Or he made? That wasn’t excellent?
5. Our God given, cx/God-Like NATURE is to live with excellence.
6. However – We have to be careful because the enemy always takes a “God thing” and corrupts it.

* The enemy tries to get us to pursue success and perfection.
* Which leads us down a path of defeat.
* NOTE: We are not talking about perfection!!!! Jesus was the only perfect one – without sin.

1. Edwin Bliss once said, “The pursuit of excellence is gratifying and healthy. The pursuit of perfection is frustrating, neurotic, and a terrible waste of time.”
2. “Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence. Vince Lombardi

**1 Corinthians 15:58** (AMP) Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord [always doing your best and doing more than is needed], being *continually* aware that your labor [even to the point of exhaustion] in the Lord is not futile *nor* wasted [it is never without purpose].

(Brian Harbor’s Book; *Rising Above the Crowd*)

SUCCESS OR EXCELLENCE?

1. Success means being the best. Excellence means being your best.

* ASDF

1. Success means being better than everyone else. Excellence means being better today than you were yesterday.
2. Success means exceeding the achievements of other people. Excellence means matching your practice with your potential.

* The pursuit of excellence comes from doing our best with what we have to God’s glory and with a view to growing and improving, but not with a view to the score or who is watching from man’s standpoint.

1. Excellence is our goal. Success is merely the reward.
2. When we pursue doing life with excellence it will CAUSE us to be successful.
3. When success is the goal – we will be tempted to compromise, cheat, and take a short cut to get there.

LIVING A LIFE OF EXCELLENCE

1. Excellence is giving our absolute best and then some.

**Matthew 22:36-38**“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

1. The reason MOST Christians relationship with God isn’t where they want it to be?

* They haven’t given their best and then some!
* ALL your heart, ALL your soul, and ALL your mind!

1. Excellence is being “all in.” Giving our all - giving our best!
2. A Keystone Habit for our staff: “Make it better”

* EX: Matt Sherman – Sunday AM Critter people
* Children’s ministry didn’t have enough volunteers
* Matt and Jeanne – getting teenagers to fill the costumes!

1. EX: PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER In his autobiography *Why Not the Best?,* President Jimmy Carter tells about his interview with Admiral Hyman G. Rickover.

* His tough straight forward interviews were legendary.
* The admiral asked how he had stood in his class at the Naval Academy?
* “I swelled my chest with pride and answered, ‘Sir, I stood 59th in a class of 820!’ I sat back to wait for the congratulations.
* Instead came the question: ‘Did you do your best?’ I started to say, ‘Yes, sir,’ but I remembered who this was. I gulped and admitted, ‘No, sir, I didn’t always do my best.’
* He looked at me for a long time, and then asked one final question, which I have never been able to forget—or to answer. He said, ‘Why not?”

1. Excellence is a lifestyle.

**2 Corinthians 8:7** But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

1. Keystone habits
2. Raising the bar in every area of your life
3. Personal grooming
4. The way you dress and look EX: DH – Shirt Collar pressed
5. Driving
6. Relationships
7. Parenting
8. Cooking & Preparing meals
9. Health
10. Job
11. School

**1 Corinthians 10:23** NLV We are allowed to do anything, but not everything is good for us to do. We are allowed to do anything, but not all things help us grow strong as Christians.

Genesis 24 – Rebecca – A lifestyle of excellence

1. BACKGROUND: Abraham, Sarah died, Isaac 40yrs, Abraham is responsible for choosing a mate for his son.

* Selects his **Oldest** servant
* The servant takes 10 camels and supplies

1. Stops at the well outside of the town of Nahor
2. Servant prays: **Verse 14**May it be that when I say to a young woman, ‘Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too’—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.”
3. He asked for a drink of water – she watered his camels as well.

* Thirsty camel drinks 20-30 gallons X 10
* 300 Gallons – pulled from the well!!!!

1. Many people want to do a great job somewhere, someday, just not today!
2. RESULT –
3. Chosen as Isaac’s wife, blessed with gifts, as well as her family.
4. Marries into the wealthiest family on the planet.
5. AND becomes the great, great, great grandmother of Jesus!

* Excellence is the commitment to go beyond what is required or expected.
* Excellence paves the way for promotion.

1. Excellence is won or lost in the details.
   1. We pay attention to the small details.
   2. We realize the little things make the big difference
   3. When our closets of life are organized the rest of our life is bound to be.
   4. We iron our shirt, shine our shoes,
   5. Managing our time, money, resources well
   6. LIE: Excellence = money, you need money to have excellence
   7. I don’t care if you drive a 20 year old car

Matthew 25 – Jesus shares the story of the master and three servants. 5-2-1 Talent / Bags of Gold

**Matthew 25:21**“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

RFC - Examples

1. Fresh flowers in the women’s restroom.
2. Paper towel feeds enough to dry your hands
3. New Guests – are escorted around the facility – given a tour
4. Chairs are straightened each service by our ushers
5. Cookies are freshly baked specifically during the time people are arriving – smell fills the air
6. We never use the word “visitor” only “GUEST”
7. We “RECEIVE” the weekly offerings. Not “TAKE UP” the offering.
8. At RFC – we do it with excellence or we don’t do it. And if we’re doing something and it is not meeting our standard – we fix it, replace it, make it better!
9. EX: Chipotle – ONLY fast food restaurant that gets it on the cup lids – stack upside down – easier to grab and take one.
10. EX: Putting our house on the market – it will sell quickly – WHY?
11. When people walk in – They will FEEL Excellence – even though 20 year old home
12. It will feel brand new.
13. I’ve repainted the closets and working on the garage. Who does that? EXCELLENCE
14. Every piece of baseboard, trim, and window, has been freshly painted. Tile has been replaced.

* Excellence is the refusal to compromise my actions from the vision in my heart.

1. Excellence is motivated by the recipient of our actions.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. NIV

**Colossians 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1. How many of us have said, “They won’t mind, they won’t care. It’s not that big of a deal.” And we let things slide and didn’t give our best
2. If Jesus was stopping by your house tonight – what would it look like? How would you prepare??
3. If Jesus was going to hang out and shadow you a day at work – how would you behave?
4. The reality is that God sees our work and rewards us accordingly – regardless of our job, our salary, or benefits.
5. When we do everything unto the LORD it ensures a consistency of our work regardless of who is around.
6. We will do all things to a standard that is pleasing to Him.

**Ephesians 6:7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,

1. Excellence includes doing common, everyday things, but in very uncommon ways regardless of whether people are watching.
2. Excellence is achieved through completion.
   1. Everyone starts out strong - few finish well.
   2. Excellence separates the winners in life from the losers.
   3. Did you complete your task? Finish strong?
   4. We recognize

**2 Timothy 4:7** NIV I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**Philippians 3:14**I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 1:6** NIV being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

CLOSE:

We must never lose sight of the BIG picture – ETERNITY!

**Matthew 6:19-21** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20**But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1. If there is one thing that separates the few who reach excellence, from the masses that wallow in mediocrity, it is this: **A willingness to go beyond one’s limitations, by operating outside a level of safety and comfort.**
2. **Your Mediocre Zone**