

Do Hard Things
Wk 6
Why?

Have you ever asked the question "why"? We've talked a lot over the last six weeks about doing things that are difficult. We've talked about what we're told, and why we're where at, but really have we done anything with what we've learned?

I would venture to guess that most of us haven't, no offense to anyone but most of us are really busy, we don't make great use of our time, and we put priority on what's important to us or what we could get in trouble for if we don't do something. That's just how life is. My question for you is this, what's your passion? What drives you to be who you are? Most of us can't answer that question at this point, but over time we'll answer it in one way or another. Most of us will either be honest with ourselves. We'll get to a point where we ask "why", why am I this way, why am I doing this, what's the point in it. Honestly, each of us has to get to that point eventually and answer those types of questions. If we refuse to we'll end up living for so many different things at so many different times that we'll be trapped in a world of confusion.

What I want to challenge you on this morning is to ask yourself the why question and specifically to this whole concept of doing hard things. Why do you or why don't you do things that are hard?

You see we all have passion or purpose. We all have reasons that we either do something or don't do it. We actually have two of them, we have the purpose we were born for and the purpose we were born with. What happens is that the purpose we are born with doesn't match the purpose we were born with because we were born with a desire for self. So the purposes I am born with can be stuff like greed and selfishness. Hear me when I say this, I'm not talking of things like selfishness and greed as things. Even though these things are sinful, that's not what I'm talking about. What I am talking about is that these are the things we are born with and end up living for. We are born with a purpose for gaining more and more, so we pursue more and more (greed and selfishness). But what are we born for, what did God create you to live for, what did he give you a passion for. You see the purposes that we are born for have to be figured out. Sometimes God shows us to them in some supernatural way, you go on a trip like LIFE or you are just overcome with something. Other times they just sort of appear, thoughts like "I spent more money at McDonalds today than most people make in a year", "I just had a 30 minute shower, used 75 gallons of water and there's a whole village of people that are so dehydrated they can't cry". Stuff like that is from God, we can't let it go and have to do something about it. I want to encourage you to pray about that, ask the question what has God called you to, what is it that you were born for.

In Mathew 5:13-16, Jesus gives us a general picture of what we have been born for;

^{Mt 5:13} "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ^{Mt 5:14} "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ^{Mt 5:15} Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ^{Mt 5:16} In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Jesus says that Christians were born to be salt and light, what does it that mean? Throughout history, up until people had electricity, salt was used to preserve meats. By rubbing salt in a slab of meat you prevented decay; you prevented it from going bad. "So when Jesus tells us we are "the salt of the earth", He's saying we have been placed to here to preserve it until He returns-

to fight against the decay of sin, to combat sickness and suffering , and to oppose corruption and injustice” (p.172). In the same sense, light has an impact on whatever it shines on. Light represents truth, “The picture of us as a city on a hill or a lamp stand means that as Christians we display the truth in word and action” (p.172).

Listen to what Jesus says concerning light in Jn. 3,

Jn 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Jn 3:20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. Jn 3:21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

Jesus is the light in the passage and he impacts the darkness so that people either run toward the light “so that it may be seen plainly that what has been done has been done through God” or they run toward the darkness “because they fear that *their* deeds will be exposed”.

In both cases, light and salt impact their environment; they impact whatever they come in contact with. What Jesus is telling us in Mathew is that everything and everyone we come in contact with should be impacted by us. You see “We are commissioned not just to love God and His word, but to radically impact our world with life and truth”, it starts with loving God and his word though. We’ll never impact anything if we don’t first fall in love God and his word.

Connor Video

(<http://drytears.org/DTnews.html>)

Sunday Night

If you go back to MT for a second you’ll see at the end of vs. 13 that if the salt loses its saltiness that it’s no good for anything. For something to be “thrown out and trampled” is a harsh way of putting it. What would cause someone to hide their light or lose their saltiness? If we’re not living as salt and light, if we’re not impacting those around us probably the first question we need to ask is are we truly salt and light, are we truly Christians or just people who put on a show and go through the motions?

If we can though, if we can say that we are salt and light, that what could possibly cause us to lose our effectiveness?

(p. 176-179)

I’ll have an object lesson or game to demonstrate the three pillars

Out of the three pillars which one is your strongest and which one is your weakest?

Why?

What steps can you take to make sure that those around you do not deem you worthless?

Will you?