

date: 2.10.13

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

For many years I wouldn't even consider going on a mission trip. I'm sorry to say it, but I was afraid of cockroaches and big spiders and didn't want to go without a hot shower. These were honestly the reasons that I never went. But this past fall, my husband and I learned that a 52-year-old mom we knew had died from melanoma. She left behind a husband and two beautiful kids. Her death changed the way I think about things.....so when Kayla casually mentioned that there were still spots open on the Haiti trip, I agreed to go, almost without thinking.

A few days before the trip, I started to get afraid again. This time I was worried about getting scabies, a skin disease spread by mites and skin-to-skin contact. Our first day in Haiti, we went down to the orphanage to see the babies. Thankfully Philippians 4:13 came to mind: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." As soon as I saw the kids, I chose to hold them, even if it meant getting a disease. It was honestly a step of faith to put my hands out and hold the kids, but I couldn't imagine withholding my affection, simply because I was afraid.

In today's message, Dan used a balance beam to illustrate our routine, safe existence. Instead of walking across it, he wrapped his arms and legs around the beam and held on for dear life. That could easily have been me, before that mom died and prior to going to Haiti.

Friends, how would our lives be different if we weren't afraid? How would they look if we really took risks to follow and obey Jesus? What's holding us back from serving where He is calling us? God has chosen each one of us – even with all of our problems and failures – to use us to bless the world. Will we risk everything and follow?

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39)

How has the Bible transformed my life? Have I shared this with others?

On p. 52 of *Radical Together* we are asked "Does this plan best align with the plan of God?" In what areas of my life, my community, my job, etc. do I need to ask this?

When Dan talked about God pruning us, he asked if we are trying to still hold on to some of the dead stuff. Give it some thought. Am I continuing to hold on to some of my old dead stuff, as though there's still life in it? What will it take for me to throw it away?

Think about Dan's "dismount" at the end of his balance beam routine. What will my "dismount" look like when I face Jesus?

Additional verses: John 15:1-5, James 4:1-3, Colossians 1:26-27, Philippians 4:13