

date: 2.3.13

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

I could hardly wait for Sunday because I was anxious to hear the announcement about Mosaic's building project. To learn that we are kingdom-building by investing in people and building homes in Haiti is exciting. Now that I've been to Mission of Hope, the Haitian people are no longer a statistic. They are real faces with very tangible needs. When we walked through the villages, most homes had dirt floors and tarp or patched walls. Most didn't have running water or indoor toilets or showers, yet their hospitality was generously warm and welcoming. They were anxious to share a hug, a prayer, even their chair. They easily handed over their babies for a quick snuggle and allowed their youngsters to follow us throughout the villages. As a mom, I cherished those moments.

But when Scott talked about 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and whether or not we give sparingly or generously, I knew the answer to that question. I would love to say I give lavishly, but my bank statement tells a different story. But God is using Haiti to change this in me. I left church with the desire to get my kids involved in the "Blue to Block" building campaign, but I didn't want to mandate something. I wanted their willing participation. As a family we decided to give up eating out and buying juice and pop from now until Easter Sunday. The money we would have spent on these things will go to Haiti. For some in my family, they thought that was a HUGE sacrifice. Compared to the needs I saw in Haiti, our sacrifice is sparse. But it's a start, and it's a direction that I know God is leading.

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) Do I love sparingly or generously? Do I love only if it's comfortable?

In Isaiah 58, Dan and Scott talked about how we spend ourselves. What does this look like in my life? How do I spend my money, my time, my resources, my whole self?

What does this mean to me: "We never want this to be comfortable." Am I comfortable? Is it bad to be comfortable? What needs to change? What does it look like to be uncomfortable?

Mosaic gave away 50% of what came in last year. What if God was calling me to live on 50% of my income? Would I obey? What would I have to sacrifice? How would things be different? What's holding me back?

God has not called all of us to serve Haiti. Where has he called me to serve? Am I doing it? Am I listening to where God is calling me? Am I serving sparingly or generously?

Additional verses: *Matthew 6:19-21, 25:31-46, Isaiah 58:9-11, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Mark 16:15*