

8.28.11

## Walking Dusty...

teacher: Adam Lynch

A few weeks ago, I was struggling with whether or not I believe Jesus is enough for me. I sing words like “more than enough” or “Jesus you’re all I need,” but do I really believe them? A few days later I got an email challenging the same truth, and then, (just because I’m really slow at getting things) I heard it again as I read a blog by Kristen Welch:

“When I sat in his closet-sized home in the middle of Africa, I couldn’t take my eyes off the pathetic interior or ignore the dripping rain on my head. I tried not to imagine the “community toilet” he shared with neighbors adjoined by paper-thin walls or how far he walked each way to school everyday, in the dark, both ways. The peace on his face was undeniable and the light that radiated from his eyes filled the dark room of his orphan-led home. I didn’t understand how he could be so content with so little. And I couldn’t stop the question, “Why are you so happy? Why aren’t you afraid?” He looked at me as if I’d missed it entirely and said, “Because I have Jesus.” He didn’t say anything else. It was a heavy statement. It was enough. He was right, I had missed it. Entirely. I equate Jesus to comfort and blessings. And when I sat in a hovel, a young boy called home, void of every comfort, I was envious of his contentment. I returned to a lifestyle with every blessing, only wanting more. I add Jesus like salt and pepper to a tasteless dish. He isn’t the main course, just an extra on the side. Jesus isn’t enough for me. I think about my happiness that is clouded with every storm that blows into my life. I think about my happiness that is contingent upon what I have versus what I want. I think about my happiness and the strings I attach to it. I think about a young boy who taught me more about Jesus and myself in a single sentence than my entire Bible College degree and 37 years of living. One of the great lessons I learned in Africa: When Jesus isn’t enough, something is wrong. I’m on a quest to make it all about Jesus. It’s easy surrounded by the comforts of my American life to melt back into the The American Way-bigger is better, more is what matters. This is a painful journey, but more than anything, I want Him to be enough for me. Is Jesus enough for you? If your happiness, like mine, is determined by how much or how little you have or the next exciting thing in your life, can I gently remind you to return to Him? He is waiting to be enough.”

Wow! Was I convicted! And just to make sure I was really listening, God allowed me to hear it again in Adam’s teaching. He asked: “Do we really want to be like Jesus?” “The American church really likes Jesus, but do we love Him?” “Are we lovesick for Jesus?” “Is Jesus your first love?” Adam challenged us with mind-numbing statistics about how Americans spend their money compared to the needs overseas. I got a lump in my throat and thought of the blog. As a response to her experience, Kristen founded The Mercy House in Kenya, a place to help, heal, and offer hope for pregnant girls. And ladies, Kristen is “just” a mom like you or me. She doesn’t have a Ph.D. in humanitarian aid, and she isn’t the heir to a multi-million dollar estate. She has a head that’s focused on her love of Jesus and a heart that’s willing to serve where the Holy Spirit moves her.

So I sit here teary-eyed, and I'm thankful God has kept pursuing me, grateful that He kept whispering this truth of putting Him first. He doesn't want to be my only love, just my greatest love. And He's willing to keep telling me until I get it. I'm not sure where God will lead in this area, but I know He has a plan.

#### **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) Am I putting God first?

Am I willing to allow God to use me where I am at school, at work, or in my family? Am I willing to put my wants aside so that God can use me to bless others?

Do I believe Jesus is enough for me?

Do I really want to be like Jesus? (Remember He was beaten, bruised and spit on – for us!)

The American Church acts like they really like Jesus (He's a good example, a good teacher, etc.), but do I really love Him? Am I willing to love Him, even when it gets hard?

Am I trying to fit Jesus into my schedule, or am I fitting my schedule around Jesus?

Do I love the things that Jesus cares about?

Do I love Jesus so much, that all of my other relationships look like hate? (see Luke 14:25)

***This month's memory verse: "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." - Acts 4:13***

***Additional verses: 1 John 2:6, Luke 14:25, Matthew 6:33-34, John 6:44***

A.W. Tozer: "We pursue God because, and only because, He has first put the urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit, "No man can come to me, except the father which hath sent me draw him." (John 6:44) The impulse to pursue God originates with God, but the outworking of that impulse is our following hard after him. All the time we are pursuing Him, he already has us in his hand."

#### **Reminders:**

**9.11 – The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm! *Passionate Purpose II*.** This week we will take time to remember the horrible tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The world will pause this day as we walk into the 10 year anniversary. Join us as we remember and reflect on how God leads us through tragedy in pursuit of passionate and purpose filled living.

**9.18 – 3rd:culture Night!** *1MOSAIC's "FREE 4 ALL!!!"* God has blessed so many of us with so much. So here is an opportunity to give back to our community. We will be hosting a 'Free 4 All' yard sale in the parking lot of the 5/6 building from 6-8pm...bring your stuff...cost for everyone = FREE!

**9.25 – The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!** *Passionate Purpose III.* We wrap up our three part series talking about living out a Jesus filled passion & purpose in the 'big' things! How do we incorporate more of Jesus into our roles as students, spouses, parents, co-workers & more!?