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Lesson 4:
Rebekah

*Review:

- What is the myth of adolescence?
- What was our first challenge in doing big things for God?
- What did we learn about when we have something too big for ourselves?
- Last week we learned about going above and beyond. Did any of you have an opportunity?

I. Being Faithful in the Small Things

*As humans, and probably more as Americans, we only want instant gratification. We want to see immediate results. In elementary, I tried Karate but I quit after a few weeks because I couldn't break a board (and because I peed my pants when I couldn't get my white belt off in time...which then became a yellow belt). In middle school I stopped paying attention in my English class because I thought the parts of speech were pointless. In high school I quit wrestling because the coach insisted that we run 3 miles a day for weeks before we get to beat people up. As an adult, I quit learning how to play the piano because I had to learn notes before the songs. To this day, I can't break a board, distinguish parts of speech, get someone to tap out with a front quarter nelson, or play any of my favorite songs.

***Illustration**- Vikings gained their strength because they were the rowers, builders, etc. which gave them great strength. Everyone else hired slaves to do the tedious jobs.

Question: What is something you've quit or not done because you couldn't keep up with the small tasks?

A. God won't reveal the BIG things until you've been faithful with the SMALL (**Matt. 25:21**)

B. Small things reveal who we REALLY ARE and what we can HANDLE

Are you...

1. a procrastinator? ("yep, I'll do it in a minute"...never gets done)
2. inconsistent? (good intentions at first, but you eventually give up or do poorly)
3. doing things with the wrong attitude?
4. taking shortcuts? (not working with excellence; pushing stuff under the bed)

*If you were an employer, would you want that kind of employee? What if you were God?

C. If we are not willing to be PATIENT by doing the non-glamorous, behind the scenes, tedious duties, we reveal that we are in it for ourselves, not for pleasing God.

*If I know that bringing snacks to cell groups is what God has challenged me to do, but I am wrapped up with the thought of how come I don't get to teach, then it reveals that even if I want to "teach" about God, my intentions are about me.

II. A Biblical Example- Rebekah (**Genesis 24**)

- A. Rebekah was raised in a God-fearing family
- B. Rebekah was out being FAITHFUL with her daily duties of gathering water for her family
- C. When she saw a man by the well, she gave him water, then went ABOVE AND BEYOND and gave his camel water as well
- D. Little did she know that the man she gave water to was looking for a wife for Isaac and had prayed that a young woman would do exactly what she did (**Gen. 24:12-15**)
 - 1. she very well could have grown up with dreams, but she was faithful to what she was called to do
 - 2. that faithfulness led her to be the wife of Abraham's son, continuing the line to Jesus

III. Practical Applications

- A. The "boring" duties of being a teenager ARE important; don't neglect them
 - chores, homework, etc.
- B. Work hard and with good ethics even if you think no one is looking or cares...GOD is watching
- C. Remember, you have to EARN opportunities
 - working your way up; gaining experience; etc.
- D. Live out **Colossians 3:23-24**

Put It Into Action:

What am I doing to do the "Hard Things" I've learned about the past 3 weeks?

How am I doing on the "small things"? Do I need to work on being faithful to things I think are unimportant?

What are you going to do about it?

Take it Home Challenge For week 4

We've begun to dream about doing big/hard things, getting others on board, standing out, being different, and living a life that causes others to want to jump on board.

This week, do all of your "small tasks" with excellence!

Also, continue to meditate on I Timothy 4:12 throughout this week.