

Dear Parents and Students,

Are you back into the daily grind of life? The holidays are over and now it's just back into the daily grind of everyday ho-hum life. We have already forgotten about the promises we made to ourselves and to God. Or maybe you're still struggling to hang on but feeling bad about yourself because you haven't fulfilled all that you said you were going to do. I will admit I have been there, and to some extent I am still there! Back to the same old, same old thing, another day, another meeting, another class, etc. Someone challenged me to look at things a little differently again. What if I wake up in the morning and the first thing isn't my to do list (I am a big list person!) but to simply ask, "God, what do you have for me today? God, what is on your heart today for my life?" These questions have begun to transform the way I approach things in my own life. For instance, I was thinking, here we go with another semester of Men's Fraternity, same old, same old (sorry Pastor John), but in asking the question "God, what do you have for me today," it has transformed what I have gotten out of this meeting and so many other ordinary events. God has a whole lot for me and you and most of it has to do with relationships with other people!!!

I would like to challenge and remind us to approach each and every encounter, meeting, class, Bible study, or ordinary event and ask, "God, what do you have for me in this event?" Sometimes it is something to do, sometimes it is something to say, sometimes it is standing up for justice, sometimes it is just to be. There are things that God wants us to do and things He wants us to accomplish, to lead, and to organize. There are things that God wants us to say to others to encourage and build them up. There are instructions in His word that He wants us to obey. We can make a whole to do list for all of the things that we are to do (boy, do I like those lists!!!). But I am reminded that Martha had a to do list of all the things that needed to be done but Jesus was most impressed with Mary sitting at His feet and being with Him. "Be still and know that I am God." Before we go do all the doing that is possible for us to do, we must begin by sitting still at the feet of Jesus and listening to Him for His instructions to us.

I know that this kind of thinking doesn't sit well with our American mindset and it really doesn't fit very well with my personality, but it is where I will continue to strive to be. Sometimes I don't sit very long, got to get to my to do list!!! Sometimes I learn all too late that my list didn't look anything like God's list when I do stop long enough to listen. Sometimes I run off and make my own list altogether. Maybe it's just me, and if so, I am extremely grateful for that. But if any of this speaks to where you are, I would encourage you to spend some time at the feet of Jesus asking Him some questions and waiting for His response!

"God, what do you have for me today?"

"God, what is on your heart today?"

"God, would you please show me who needs a word of encouragement today?"

"God, how do you want me to show love to my parents, teacher, spouse, coach, classmates, boss, etc., today?"

"God, show me where I need to be obedient to your word today."