

Excellence

Competition in corporate America, and around the world is usually fierce. And the folks who do an “okay” job probably receive an “okay” salary and an “okay” experience with the company. Many of us wish instead, that we had the astounding money, amazing brain power, remarkable talent, or incredible beauty of the people we see in movies, or hear about on Wall Street. Yet, the people who achieve exceptional notoriety, whether in sports, industry, or on the silver screen, report that their accomplishments didn’t happen overnight, but followed long hours of very tough labor and meticulous focus on the details. And too many of us don’t really want to work that hard.

When Jesus fed the five thousand one afternoon, they were thrilled, and many returned the next day, seeking a free meal and a really entertaining sermon. When they realized that he didn’t want them simply to eat, but to follow his example and to minister, they were disappointed. They didn’t really want to work that hard. When he commanded the town leaders who were sin-free to “cast the first stone,” they shook their heads and wandered away. They really didn’t want to work that hard.

Do we sometimes assume that the work we do for the church, because it’s voluntary work, does not require excellence? If we do an “okay” job at the church, if we attend worship an “okay” number of times, if we put an “okay” amount of money into the plate, will we end up with an “okay” experience, and an “okay” amount of spiritual knowledge, and will Christ be pleased with his “okay” church filled with “okay” followers?

I hope we don’t have to face the Son of God one day, with a mediocre achievement list in hand. I don’t want to face the Almighty with excuses – justified though they may be. I don’t want to see the disappointment in his eyes, and hear his low sigh, because he offered me everything in abundance, while I just wanted an “okay” life.

The Creator of the cosmos has provided us an excellent earth, and an extraordinary amount of days to share it. We have been fed, housed, educated, and spent our time as citizens of a remarkable world and a superb country. God has given us children and grandchildren whose smiles can light up a room! We have heard music and seen beauty and received an amazing bounty from this world, and overwhelming grace from a Sovereign who considers us heirs. Everything my Sovereign does is completed with excellence. In response, I have promised to give Christ my “all.” Have you promised the same?

Wonder when that should begin.

Candice

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

– *Philippians 4: 8*