

Wednesday

BUSYNESS: MATTHEW 11:28

There is hardly anyone I know that doesn't struggle with being too busy. Especially in college, it is so easy to fill every minute of every single day doing something. And so often, they are really good things we fill our time with—they're leading us toward a future job, creating stronger relationships with others, or maybe they are even ministry related. That doesn't change the fact that God calls us to rest. Sometimes our busyness is more internal, God wants us to place that burden in His hands, not carry it alone. He asks us to take a Sabbath and rest in him. Sometimes it seems impossible to do, with everything on my calendar, but when I ask for an opportunity to rest God almost always provides.

I am not my best self when I am feeling rushed, stressed and burdened. Putting aside my busyness is not only good for me, but for those around me as well. One of the definitions of busy is "unavailable to use." That rings so true to me. How can God use us to our fullest potential, if we are too busy to pay attention to Him?

-Haley Smith

Thursday

APATHY: REVELATION 3:15-16

The giants that we face in this life are many. Low self-esteem, lust, addiction, and unhealthy relationships are a few that seem to be more common among college students, and there are many more besides. Yet I would contend that there is one giant, who doesn't loom as large as some others, that is deadlier to the soul than all the rest. Its name is apathy. Apathy may not be covered in as many sermons as greed or doubt, and it might not be discussed in as many bible passages as pride or fear; but whenever I come against such giants in my life, I can almost always trace the cause back to apathy. In the book of Revelation, John writes against the church of Laodicea not because - to use the disciple's own words - their deeds were hot or cold, but because they were lukewarm. The people of that Church were not wholly committed to God and they were not wholly turned against Him; instead, they were doing what they thought was just enough to get by while not actively sinning. This is the very definition of apathy, and it is poisonous to any relationship with God. Signs of apathy include not getting into the word of God as much as you should, falling out of fellowship with other believers, and not serving others as much as God would like. When we are apathetic, we begin to fall away from God without even realizing it, and that is when other giants can come into our lives. When we turn wholly to God, that is when we can beat them.

-Albert Godlesky

Friday

TIMIDITY: EPHESIANS 6:11-18

Superhero movies are, in a word, awesome. I think we can all agree there's many good reasons that they're among the top grossing films every year. Of course, no hero would be complete without their Superhero suit. It's difficult to talk about fighting giants, whether metaphorical or physical, without taking a good look at just what we have to fight with. Our Supersuit is laid out in Ephesians 6:11-18. Often called the armor of God, this passage is modeled after the Roman armor of the day because the recipients of this letter would have a clear image of what this looked like and the Roman army was the most formidable force in the world. There are a few things I find particularly interesting about this - the first being that Roman armor had no backplate because they weren't allowed to retreat. Where have I started to retreat from the battleline out of fear, pressure or just distraction? The other interesting piece of this, to me, is that we are only provided with one weapon - the Word of God [vs. 17]. Now, I don't know a lot about Sword fighting, but I've watched a lot of Reign, and I've learned that no soldier would go into battle without being very familiar with his weapon. How familiar am I really with the weapon I am given? What can I do to make myself more familiar with it? If we're fighting giants, let's do our best to be prepared.

-Alexi Bolton

Monday

FEAR: JOHN 14:27

I am sure that we have all experiences the feeling of not knowing what is coming up next. It can be in school, work, or even what is going to happen tomorrow. This makes us very afraid to where we might even fear the future. Fear is huge giant we all have to overcome and this feeling comes straight from the father of lies, the devil. Fear affects us all differently and how we handle it makes us who we are. For the bible says in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." In this verse we see that God wants to give us his peace and does not want us to be afraid. You, with the help of God, can overcome fear and expel it from your life. If you feel that you are just caught up in fear's snare and can't be free, I have good news, you can be. If you trust God, he will deliver you from fear and give you peace. I encourage you to get closer to God so he can take your fear away and allow you to become the person he wants you to be.

-Chasen Pridgen