



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 2 - Day 5

Follow - Through

by Glen & Rebecca Davis

Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Matthew 26:38-44

Can't you just feel for the disciples when Jesus returned to find them sleeping? They had one job—ONE JOB—that the Savior of the World asked them to do and yet, they couldn't follow through—not once, not twice, but three times. This is what we see in these verses:

- Jesus asked his friends to remain with him and pray;
- His friends, the disciples, gave in to their own human frailties (i.e. sleeping) even when Jesus asked them not to;
- The disciples disappointed Jesus;
- But Jesus remained committed to God's plan for His life in spite of others letting him down

If you've ever been in a child play area at a fast food restaurant, you know they are perpetually in need of cleaning. It's the same for church playscapes. They are always dirty. Everyone agrees on that point, but few are willing to commit to doing what it takes to get them even moderately clean.

Case in point: a local church sponsored an all-hands-on-deck cleaning day for their

facility recently. The initial enthusiasm for the project was well-received.

“Sure, I can come for a few hours on Saturday morning to work on scrubbing down the children’s area.”

“Paint a few walls? I’m handy with a brush.”

“Pick up trash from the grounds and parking lot? No problem.”

Comments like these came from lots of members. However, come Saturday morning, the turn-out was dismally low. People forgot about the work day, some scheduled other things or allowed other activities to interfere, and even a few intentionally chose not to come, assuming ‘everyone else’ would cover their slack. The problem with their lack of commitment was that there was no ‘everyone else’ to do even the basic tasks.

All the grandiose visions of a spiffed-up, polished, and pulled-together worship facility fell flat because, like the disciples, there was no follow-through on commitment.

Obviously, cleaning a children’s play area or picking up trash from a parking lot is nowhere near the scale of what Jesus asked of His disciples, but it was still a shortfall on the character of lots of people who didn’t honor their commitment to show up and help out.

All of us have been in situation when others have let us down—that’s usually beyond our control. What’s not beyond our control is our commitment to stay the course for what God has told us to do. All we can control is ourselves—what we do, think, and say.

Conveniently, that’s all The Lord asks of us—follow-through on our commitment to Him and let others do the same.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what way, can a lack of support from friends and family be extremely disappointing?
2. What is your initial reaction when you feel your partner has disappointed you? How can you react in a positive way?
3. When you are disappointed or experiencing hurt feelings, how would you like your partner to respond?

Action Steps:

Make a plan on how you can react positively when someone has disappointed you.

Prayer:

“Father, thank you for giving your Son as an incredible example of perseverance and showing us what commitment to God looks like—even when others let us down. Please give us the wisdom to surround ourselves with friends that will give us wise counsel and stay the course with us through life’s storms. Let us also have the strength and courage to be there for those who need us and to continually strive to follow your will.”

