

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
September 10, 2017

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Sunday Morning 09-10-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"

When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/277751>

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[Image]

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Baseball. Life. Jesus.

If Jesus came to our community now, he might say, "Friends, everything I needed to know about life I learned on the ball diamond. Life and baseball are full of fresh starts. Every batter will strike out and every player will make an error from time to time. Keep swinging. Keep trying. Never; never; never; ever give up!"

Bring your friends and family who don't participate in a church to FRESH START SUNDAY, September 17th, starting at 10:45 AM. Help them grab this chance for a fresh start as we launch a new series - TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME (Baseball. Life. Jesus.) We all will stay for a picnic complete with hot dogs and apple pie at noon.

AWAKEN Youth Ministry

AWAKEN launches on today, at 5:30 PM.

We want to be free from the tyranny of the urgent, the expectations of others and ourselves, fear of what people think about us.

That's why it is the seventh part of our series:

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Real Answers to

Real Questions from

Real People like you

How can I say no to good things so I can say yes to great things?

Daniel 1:1-21 NIV

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three

years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my Lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

<http://bible.com/111/dan.1.1-21.NIV>

"How can I say no to good things so I can say yes to great things?"

SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

Make up your mind and stand up when you slip up.

Twenty-six-year-old Frank Asbury ... took on a hard assignment. He arrived to find 316 Methodist ... members. He road an average of 6,000 miles a year on horseback, a total of some 270,000 miles. He preached upwards of 15,000 sermons, ordained 4,000 clergymen and presided over 224 annual conferences of the burgeoning movement. He made an annual salary of \$80. Forty-five years later, the movement had grown to 215,000.

To this day, those Methodists were the first and only group in history to plant a church in every county in this country.

Citation: J.D. Walt, September 5, 2017, The Seedbed Daily Text, "Are You Raising Your Hand Yet?" <http://www.seedbed.com/are-you-raising-your-hand-yet/>

Will you ask Jesus to set you free?  
Will you make up your mind?  
Will you stand up when you slip up?

