

Shepherd To Sheep
7/19/09

Do Hard Things

The youth group is starting a Sunday afternoon class and we are going through the book *Do Hard Things* by *Alex and Brett Harris*. These two teenagers are challenging other teens to rebel against the low expectations that society has placed on them. They are telling the youth that the Lord has a bigger and better plan for their lives than anything they can imagine, and that God wants to use them in a mighty way now and not some time in the far future.

There are plenty of examples of people doing hard things for the Lord in the Bible from Noah, to Joseph, to Joshua, to Samuel, and Daniel, but my favorite, and the one that I shared with the youth, is found in 1 Samuel 14. It is the story of Jonathan and his armor bearer trusting in the Lord, and in verse 6 Jonathan tells his armor bearer that the two of them should go up against the Philistines, "*It may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.*" Here was a young man that believed that the Lord was with him, and the Lord was able to accomplish His work with a lot of people, or just with the two of them.

Here is the challenge that we are setting before the youth. We want to see them step out and understand Romans 8:31 "*If God is for us who can be against us?*" We want to see them follow the Lord with their lives today, we want to see them have a real relationship with the Lord.

We just got through the book of Deuteronomy in Sunday School and in chapter 10:12-13 God tells the people what He requires of them (crack open your Bible and look it up!). We are saved by grace through faith and it is a gift from God, and if you want to be following the Lord next week, next month, next year, and 10 years from now then you need to do the hard things today. These are not huge lofty goals, but it is daily denying ourselves taking up our cross, and following the Lord wherever He leads (Mark 8:34). It is being a servant daily and setting the example for our kids and the people that are coming after us. So our challenge this week is this: ***Do the hard things and follow the Lord daily, be His servant and see what the Lord wants to do in your life!***

~Youth Pastor, Eli