

Letting Go of "Good" for "Better"



I procrastinated for three days before even writing the email. For a rule follower like me, skipping a *you're-supposed-to-be-there event* had me looking over my shoulder for the finger-wagging that would certainly come.

Our calendar was blooming with activity, weeds and chaff all intermingled and hard to separate. I stared at it for the 23rd time with my face plunked in my hands.

Was there *any way* to make this work?

Taking off my glasses, I rubbed my eyes and sat in the quiet of my afternoon kitchen. I knew we couldn't go. I knew the kind of traffic acrobatics it would take for me to even attempt showing up. **Worst of all, I knew saying "no" would be disappointing, and I hate to disappoint.**

I wrote the email.

Hitting send felt like penance.

Why Saying "No" to *this* Means Saying "Yes" to *that*.

Apparently, I struggle occasionally with prioritizing. There are days when *everything* seems important.

- That laundry? **Must be done now!**
- Writing her a card of encouragement? **I've been meaning to do that for days!**
- Trying to organize a grocery list and dentist appointments and dry cleaning? **All vital!**

What I'm learning is that life will always be screaming my name. The world will always have a list to keep me busy. My own dreams and goals will not happen without concerted effort.

But every time I say "yes" to one of those things, it means I have to say "no" to something else. That means I have to let go of the "good" for the "better."

Striving for "Better" in a World of "Good Enough"

We could go on living "normal" lives and -- if we're lucky -- manage to die with a smile on our faces.

We could go on with our racing and stuffing and cramming and jamming and toss up our hands and say "*That's just the way life is.*"

But I'm realizing that God wants Better for us--and yes, that's Better with a capital B.

For you, letting go of good and striving for better might mean:

- making the hard choice to leave your small group after years of togetherness
- telling your family that you can't make it to the reunion after all
- missing out on time with friends so you can work out or volunteer at your child's school
- disconnecting your cable TV so that you can connect anew with your kids

For me, it means loosening the noose that tethers me to a calendar--(*loosening* -- not amputating.)

It means *deciding* that the whiteboard with black lines and boxes hanging near our back door *does not have power over me.* I am the one holding the marker. I am the one taking the phone call. I am the one making the plans.

Whatever it is that has you rooted in "Good Enough," start your week with the fresh sense of God prodding you toward "Better." Remember that saying "no," vulnerable and scary as it is, can result in being able to say "yes" to so much more.

When have you had to say "no" to something good in order to gain something better?

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