

THE 5 THINGS: EQUIPPING YOU FOR MISSIONAL LIVING AFTER COLLEGE

"Square Peg, Round Hole"

I was very fortunate to experience 3 years of fruitful ministry on my college campus. I was able to lead friends to Christ and watch them grow into mature Christians. College was an incredible time of life! Throughout my school years, I knew that ministry in the marketplace was my true calling, so when I was actually in the thick of it, I was dumbfounded by the difficulty of having a ministry in my workplace. College ministry was easy; why was this so hard? I realized quickly that the workplace was a very different ministry environment...and I needed some new skills to be effective. I needed ongoing equipping as I adapted to my new mission field.

> ~ 2006 U of WI - Eau Claire Graduate

EDUCATION DOESN'T END WITH GRADUATION

Have you ever left a cup of water on your counter for two weeks (on accident of course!) or walked past a shallow swamp filled with moss and weeds? Yuck! Just as water tends to become stale and gross, so does your spiritual life when you are not continually filled with "fresh" truth and love by the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks to our need for "Ongoing Equipping" as we mature in the love of Christ & build each other up in His love.

Read: Ephesians 4:11-16

In the context of this verse:

- Who is doing the equipping?
- Who is being equipped?

• For what purpose are they being equipped?

Focus on verse 14: In the context of graduating and entering the next phase of life, what "waves", worldly "doctrine", "human cunning" and "deceitful schemes" do you expect to encounter in your first year after college?

Read: Matthew 25:14-30

- What are your talents and how can those be used to help "the body grow so that it builds itself up in love"? (Eph 4:16)
- Do you have any big dreams?
- In your opinion: What is the percentage chance that your big dream will occur randomly and without effort?

Read: "Square Peg, Round Hole"

- True or False: If I love God and pursue him with my daily devotion, I will realize my dream/vision. Provide background for your answer and discuss.
- What role do WE play in ongoing equipping for effective ministry?

Think of a few positive role models in your life: a parent, co-worker, friend, relative, etc.

- What specific talents do you most admire about these people?
- They were likely not born with these talents. What was their path on the way to developing these talents?

Being involved with campus ministry for the past 4 years and receiving training in ministry, training in how to walk with Jesus and having other's pour into your life, puts you into the top tier of trained and equipped Christians in this country. You're in a unique position to radically affect communities, workplaces and help build up the local church. Seek ways to translate your training to new environments and always continue to pursue new equipping opportunities. Live in light of the gifts and talents God has given you!

Action Steps:

Sit down with someone that knows you best: maybe a close friend or someone that has discipled you. Ask them to speak truth into your life regarding your strengths, gifts, talents and where that person might see you serving in the Body of Christ.

Think of a friend or acquaintance who has already gone through this transition in life and sit down with him/her. Ask about experiences, what to expect & how to prepare.

Next week we will discuss the importance of having a "Coach"

