

YOCCO '25

LIFT YOUR VOICE

Michigan
next gen

A NOTE FROM THE MICHIGAN NEXTGEN DIRECTOR:

DEAR STUDENT,

IT WAS FANTASTIC HAVING YOU AT YOUTH CONVENTION THIS YEAR! WE TRULY HOPE THE WEEKEND WAS PACKED WITH MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS, UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS, AND GENUINE ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD. WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN WALKING WITH YOUR FAITH FOR YEARS OR THIS WAS YOUR FIRST TIME HEARING ABOUT THE LOVE OF JESUS, WE WANT YOU TO WALK AWAY WITH MORE THAN JUST GOOD MEMORIES.

OUR HEART AT MICHIGAN NEXT GEN IS THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH GOD SHOULDN'T JUST BE A FLEETING MOMENT AT AN EVENT. WE WANT TO EQUIP YOU TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM! IF YOU CAME TO CAMP THIS YEAR, YOU RECEIVED A DEVOTIONAL DESIGNED TO BE A TOOL FOR CONTINUED GROWTH. WE ARE SO EXCITED TO GIVE YOU A SIMILAR TOOL TO SOLIDIFY YOUR EXPERIENCE AT YOCO!

OVER THE NEXT SIX DAYS, WE'LL BE EXPLORING THE SPEAKER'S MESSAGES MORE DEEPLY. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO:

- GRAB A NOTEBOOK AND A PEN.
- OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND DIVE INTO THE SCRIPTURES.
- SIT QUIETLY, LET HIM SPEAK DIRECTLY TO YOU, AND CAPTURE THOSE THOUGHTS.
- LET WHAT YOU LEARN TRULY SETTLE IN YOUR SPIRIT.

HE HAS INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR YOU AND AN EXCITING FUTURE PLANNED OUT FOR YOUR LIFE! DON'T LEAVE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH GOD END AT YOCO. IT WAS REAL, AND HE HAS SO MUCH MORE FOR YOU.

WE LOVE YOU AND ARE PRAYING FOR YOU!

-PASTOR RAYMOND & SADI MARSHALL



**MICAH MAC (MACDONALD) IS A NATIONAL YOUTH SPEAKER,
PASTOR, HUSBAND, AND FATHER OF TWO
FOLLOW HIM ON IG @PASTORMICAHMAC**



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DAY 1: RECOGNIZING THE DISTANCE

READ: LUKE 17:11-19

DEVOTIONAL:

IMAGINE HAVING A SICKNESS THAT FORCED EVERYONE TO KEEP AWAY FROM YOU- NO HUGS, NO FRIENDS, NO COMMUNITY. THAT'S WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR THE TEN LEPERS WHO SHOUTED OUT TO JESUS IN THE BIBLE READING. THEY KNEW THEY WERE BROKEN AND HELPLESS.

JUST LIKE LEPROSY SEPARATED THEM FROM OTHERS, SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD AND FROM THE AMAZING LIFE HE PLANNED FOR US. SOMETIMES, THE WORLD MAKES SIN LOOK NORMAL AND FUN, WHICH CAN MAKE US FEEL COMFORTABLE IN OUR BROKENNESS. WE START TO BELIEVE WE CAN FIX OURSELVES OR THAT WE DON'T NEED GOD. BUT THE LEPERS UNDERSTOOD THE TRUTH: THEY COULDN'T SAVE THEMSELVES, AND NEITHER CAN WE.

HEALING STARTS WITH HONESTY.

ASK YOURSELF: WHERE HAS SIN CREATED A DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND GOD? ARE YOU TRYING TO HANDLE EVERYTHING IN YOUR LIFE BY YOURSELF?

ACTION: TAKE A MOMENT TO HONESTLY ADMIT TO GOD WHERE YOU'RE STRUGGLING. YOU CAN'T HEAL WHAT YOU REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE. ADMITTING YOUR NEED IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD RESTORATION.

DAY 2: THE POWER OF CRYING OUT

READ: PSALM 40:1-3 & LUKE 18:35-43

DEVOTIONAL:

WHEN THE LEPERS SAW JESUS, THEY DIDN'T OFFER A POLITE, CASUAL PRAYER. THEY CRIED OUT WITH DESPERATION: "JESUS, MASTER, HAVE MERCY ON US!" THEIR CRY WASN'T JUST A REQUEST; IT WAS AN ACT OF HUMILITY, ADMITTING THAT SOMEONE WAS GREATER THAN THEM AND WAS THEIR ONLY HOPE.

GOD IS DRAWN TO AUTHENTIC DESPERATION- HE RESPONDS TO THE GENUINE, SOUL-DEEP PLEAS OF HIS CHILDREN. THINK ABOUT IT: WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TRULY CRIED OUT TO GOD? NOT JUST A QUICK REQUEST, BUT A PRAYER THAT CAME FROM THE DEEPEST PART OF YOUR HEART?

SOMETIMES WE TRY TO KEEP OUR SPIRITUALITY "UNDER CONTROL." WE DON'T WANT TO LOOK DESPERATE OR WEAK. BUT WHEN YOU CRY OUT, YOU'RE NOT ANNOYING GOD; YOU ARE INVITING HIM INTO YOUR CHAOS. HE IS LISTENING AND IS MOVED BY YOUR FAITH AND YOUR NEED.

ASK YOURSELF: WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING ONTO, TRYING TO FIX ALONE? WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU DESPERATELY NEED GOD TO STEP IN AND HANDLE RIGHT NOW?

ACTION: STOP MANAGING YOUR LIFE INDEPENDENTLY. CRY OUT TO GOD TODAY- FOR MERCY, HEALING, A BREAKTHROUGH, OR FOR STRENGTH TO FACE A TOUGH SITUATION. HE IS READY TO HEAR YOU.



DAY 3: OBEDIENCE BEFORE SIGHT

READ: LUKE 17:14 & ROMANS 10:9-10

DEVOTIONAL:

HERE'S THE SURPRISING PART OF THE STORY: JESUS DIDN'T HEAL THE LEPERS IMMEDIATELY. HE TOLD THEM, "GO, SHOW YOURSELVES TO THE PRIESTS." THEIR HEALING DIDN'T COME WHEN THEY SHOUTED; IT CAME AS THEY OBEYED AND STARTED WALKING. THEY HAD TO TAKE A STEP OF FAITH BEFORE THEY SAW THE MIRACLE.

THIS IS GOD'S PATTERN: OBEDIENCE PRECEDES BREAKTHROUGH. YOU MIGHT BE WAITING FOR A FEELING TO CHANGE, FOR A SITUATION TO ALIGN PERFECTLY, OR FOR A FLASH OF LIGHT BEFORE YOU TAKE ACTION. BUT GOD OFTEN ASKS US TO MOVE FIRST.

PERHAPS GOD HAS TOLD YOU TO FORGIVE SOMEONE, TO STOP A SINFUL HABIT, OR TO STEP UP AND SERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY. YOU MAY BE WAITING TO "FEEL" READY OR TO "SEE" HOW IT WILL WORK OUT. YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR OBEDIENCE.

ALSO, NOTICE WHAT THE ONE GRATEFUL LEPER DID- HE CAME BACK TO WORSHIP JESUS. TRUE FAITH DOESN'T JUST WANT A HANDOUT; IT WANTS A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, SUBMITTING TO HIM AS LORD OF YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

ASK YOURSELF: WHAT IS ONE THING GOD HAS PROMPTED YOU TO DO THAT YOU'RE WAITING TO OBEY UNTIL YOU SEE RESULTS? IS JESUS YOUR HEALER, BUT NOT YET YOUR LORD?

ACTION: TAKE THE STEP OF FAITH TODAY. TRUST THAT GOD WILL MEET YOU AND BRING THE BREAKTHROUGH YOU NEED IN YOUR OBEDIENCE.



DAY 4: YOUR IDENTITY RISES

READ: PROVERBS 24:16; ROMANS 8:1

DEVOTIONAL:

LET'S BE REAL: YOU ARE GOING TO MESS UP. WE ALL DO. THE BIBLE SAYS, "THE GODLY MAY FALL SEVEN TIMES, BUT THEY RISE AGAIN" (PROVERBS 24:16, ADAPTED). NOTICE IT DOESN'T SAY THE GODLY NEVER FALL; IT SAYS THEY GET BACK UP.

WHEN YOU TRIP UP- WHETHER IT'S A BAD DECISION, A SHARP WORD, OR A MISSED OPPORTUNITY- SATAN, THE ENEMY, IS RIGHT THERE WHISPERING LIES: "YOU'RE A FAILURE. YOU'RE STUCK. THIS IS WHO YOU ARE."

BUT GUESS WHAT? YOUR STUMBLES DON'T DEFINE YOU.

YOUR IDENTITY IS FOUND IN YOUR FATHER'S FAITHFULNESS, NOT YOUR FAILURES. WHEN YOU ARE IN CHRIST, GOD DECLARES: "THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION." YOUR MISTAKES ARE COVERED BY JESUS' FORGIVENESS. A GODLY PERSON ISN'T SOMEONE WHO NEVER FALLS; THEY ARE A FORGIVEN PERSON WHO REFUSES TO STAY DOWN.

ASK YOURSELF: WHAT LIE HAS THE ENEMY BEEN WHISPERING WHEN YOU'VE FALLEN? (E.G., "YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH." OR "JUST QUIT.")

ACTION: REJECT THAT LIE RIGHT NOW. SPEAK GOD'S TRUTH BACK OUT LOUD: "I MAY HAVE FALLEN, BUT I AM FORGIVEN, AND MY FATHER'S GRACE HELPS ME RISE AGAIN."

DAY 5: THE WEAPON OF THE WORD

READ: PSALM 119:9-16; MATTHEW 4:1-11

DEVOTIONAL:

HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY GET UP WHEN YOU FEEL WEAK AND DEFEATED?
YOUR FIRST, BEST WEAPON IS GOD'S WORD.

WHEN JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY SATAN IN THE WILDERNESS, HE DIDN'T ARGUE OR GET DEFENSIVE; HE RESPONDED WITH THREE POWERFUL WORDS: "IT IS WRITTEN." JESUS USED THE BIBLE TO FIGHT OFF DECEPTION.

WHEN YOU STUMBLE, THE BIBLE DOESN'T JUST INFORM YOU; IT TRANSFORMS YOU.

IT BRINGS FAITH: ROMANS 10:17 SAYS FAITH COMES BY HEARING GOD'S WORD. WHEN YOU READ SCRIPTURE, YOU REMIND YOURSELF OF GOD'S POWER AND PROMISES, NOT YOUR FAILURES.

IT BRINGS WISDOM: PROVERBS HELPS YOU LEARN FROM FOOLISH CHOICES AND TRAINS YOU FOR THE FUTURE.

IT BRINGS FOCUS: THE GOSPELS (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN) HELP YOU SEE JESUS CLEARLY AGAIN, REMINDING YOU OF YOUR TRUE PURPOSE.

THE ENEMY WANTS YOUR SHAME TO BE LOUDER THAN YOUR SCRIPTURE. DON'T LET IT BE! LET GOD'S WORD BE THE LOUDEST VOICE IN YOUR LIFE.

ASK YOURSELF: WHAT'S LOUDER IN YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW- YOUR GUILT OR GOD'S GRACE?

ACTION: COMMIT TO READING THREE SHORT SECTIONS EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: ONE FROM PSALMS (TO VALIDATE YOUR EMOTIONS), ONE FROM PROVERBS (FOR PRACTICAL WISDOM), AND ONE FROM THE GOSPELS (TO SEE JESUS).



DAY 6: THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

READ: ACTS 2:42-47; HEBREWS 10:24-25

DEVOTIONAL:

SATAN LOVES TO ISOLATE YOU. THINK ABOUT IT: WHEN YOU MESS UP, YOUR FIRST INSTINCT MIGHT BE TO HIDE, SKIP CHURCH, AND AVOID YOUR GODLY FRIENDS. ISOLATION IS WHERE SHAME GROWS AND WHERE THE ENEMY DOES HIS BEST WORK!

BUT GOD'S PLAN IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT: COMMUNITY.

GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR YOU TO WALK ALONE. THE EARLY CHURCH (ACTS 2) WAS ABOUT BELIEVERS GATHERING, EATING, PRAYING, AND LEARNING TOGETHER. COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE YOU NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL:

PRAY FOR YOU WHEN YOU CAN'T PRAY FOR YOURSELF.

POINT YOU BACK TOWARD JESUS WHEN YOU FEEL LOST.

REFUSE TO LET YOU STAY DOWN.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE "PERFECT" TO SHOW UP. SHOW UP IN YOUR MESS. BE HONEST, AND LET YOUR GODLY FRIENDS AND LEADERS HELP YOU GET BACK ON YOUR FEET. YOU NEED BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO WILL RUN ALONGSIDE YOU, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU STUMBLE.

ASK YOURSELF: WHO IS IN YOUR GODLY COMMUNITY? ARE YOU RUNNING TOWARD THEM OR HIDING FROM THEM?

ACTION: IF YOU HAVE A COMMUNITY, REACH OUT TO ONE PERSON TODAY FOR PRAYER OR ACCOUNTABILITY. IF YOU DON'T, TAKE ONE STEP THIS WEEK TO FIND IT (E.G., JOIN A SMALL GROUP, TALK TO A YOUTH LEADER, OR ASK A FRIEND TO BE YOUR PRAYER PARTNER).



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