

Attitude and Effort

Challenge: In the Parable of the three bricklayers—When asked what they were doing, one of them complained, “I’m just laying bricks.” The second one halfheartedly said, “I’m putting up a wall.” And finally, the third one beamed, “I’m building a spectacular cathedral which will serve thousands of people for centuries to come!”

The third bricklayer built with a clear and compelling sense of vision of his goal and strong sense of purpose in mind. He knew his hard work contributed to some larger and more meaningful purpose, much greater than himself. He connected his daily difficult work with the vision of the beautiful cathedral eventually being a special place for thousands of people for centuries to come. Because of it, he worked that much harder and with much more pride and passion than the other two. His important work had clear meaning and a compelling purpose.

In the parable of the bricklayers, everyone has the same occupation, but how they themselves viewed their work couldn’t be more different.

When we can see the end result, rather than just the task, it will help us eliminate obstacles, focus our energy, and provide motivation to excel. When we change our focus on the bigger picture or the end result it will provide motivation to continue and inspire solutions to challenges.

When we begin to work with the end in mind, we will have greater energy, passion, and commitment, not because we have to, but because we get to.

Questions to consider:

1. What motivates you?
2. How do you view the team's mission, vision, and core values?
3. Is there anything that holds you back or hinders from being the best you can be?

What’s going on: In Hebrews 11 many people were commended for living a life of faith in God. These individuals suffered many trials and faced hostility and opposition because of living a life of faith. At times, they felt like quitting and became weary and discouraged. They were flawed and far from perfect, yet God commends them because they looked to Him and stayed on mission.

Game Time: Hebrews 12:1-3

1. Why do we need to be reminded of others who have gone before us?
2. Is there any sin in your life that you need to lay aside?
3. What is the race God has given you to run?

4. What is your motivation?
5. Do you find yourself comparing the race God has given you to the race God has given to someone else?
6. How was Jesus able to finish the race he was given by God (the cross)?

Key Verse: "...for the joy set before Him endured the cross..." Hebrews 12:2

Anchors to remember:

- Keep a "Big Picture Focus"