

Promised Land I
Desert Fatigue
October 28, 2012

PRELUDE – Mighty to Save

**Worship – ABOJ & IAF Medley / Your Love
Never Fails**

Feature – “Ironic”

Can anyone here relate to that song?ⁱ “When you think everything's okay and everything's going right ... life has a funny way of sneaking up on you.” You think it's going to work out one way; you have it all figured out ... and then it goes another.

For me, personally, there seems to be a lot of that going on in recent days. As many of you know, my parents live just outside of Washington, D.C. and earlier this summer we started talking about them moving out

here so they could be closer to us and we could help assist them as they're getting up in age. We even started looking for a house or an apartment and it seemed like things were on track but then, bam, out of the blue, two very strange things happened that no one expected (on their end) and now we're dead in the water. We're not sure what to do next.

It's ironic: for all the time we've lived in Kansas City – almost 25 years now – my parents had never shown any interest in moving this direction. And when they finally do, we run into a bunch of obstacles.

And I'm sure many of you could tell similar stories about your family ... or your job or your health or even just your trip to church this morning. You thought it was going to work out one way; you had it all figured out ... and then it went another way.

That's a good way of describing the situation in which we find the Children of Israel at the point where we left them in their journey to the Promised Land. If you were here last Sunday (or you've been getting my letters in the mail or seeing my City and Facebook posts), you know that we're observing their experience as they prepared to enter into *their* new reality in hopes of learning some lessons that will be helpful to us as we – the people of North Heartland – prepare to enter into *our* new reality.

And you can see that new reality taking shape just outside these doors and even more so if you stick your head in the auditorium and check out the changes that are taking place in there. (It's open again today, so make sure to stop by and take a peek!)

But when I talk about “a new reality for North Heartland,” I mean more than just what’s happening to our building. I mean what’s going to happen to *our life together as a church* – what it’s going to feel like to be part of this thing called NHCC and what it’s going to take to pull it off (from a human standpoint). As I said last week and will probably say again every week, *we are going to grow and grow dramatically* by reaching hundreds of men, women and children who this very morning have no idea that ...

- We’re even here.
- That what we do and what we experience in this hour is relevant to everyday life.
- That church can be more than just an hour-a-week experience – it can be a family that loves and cares for one another so well that others want to be

part of it.

- And most importantly, that God loves them so much that Jesus gave his life on the cross to not only make atonement for their sins, but to restore their relationship to God and to enable them to find great fulfillment in becoming the people He intended them to be (just as He is doing for us).

And the way we're going to reach those men, women and children is by taking advantage of the single greatest outreach opportunity a church can have: a *season of "Grand Opening"* that's going to last from Christmas Eve through Easter (which, this year, is at the end of March). During those three months, we're going to do a ton of marketing and personal invitations to NHCC ... and people *will* respond. People *will* come. And if you've never been part of something like this I promise you that those

three months (and beyond) will be one of the most amazing times you've ever experienced in your spiritual life. You don't want to miss it.

By the way, someone recently asked me, "When you talk like this about growing dramatically, I start wondering if you're really saying that the goal is to become a mega-church. Is that the plan? Is that where we're going here?"

Well, let me just make it really clear - No, that's not the plan; that's not where we're going. And I want to clear this up because I don't want anyone bailing on NHCC because they don't want to be part of a super-huge congregation. Neither do I!

So, here's the deal. Our goal from the very beginning has never been to become a mega-church. Instead, we want to become a

mega-influence church: a church that is large enough to become an engine for planting other churches – which is the highest leverage a church can ever have in terms of influence because it allows you to permanently multiply your ministry far beyond what you could ever do in your own efforts and in your own location.

For example, because of our efforts as a congregation in the last decade, there are now close to 4,000 people involved in churches that we either planted directly or went in with other congregations to plant. *We could never handle that many people ourselves.* We don't have that kind of room, we can't afford that kind of facility, plus I don't have the leadership gifts for that size of an organization. Not many people do.

But that's OK because, by planting churches, we can make it possible for all

those people (shoot, we *have* made it possible!) to become part of a great church that's designed for people just like them.

Sadly, we got away from that in the past few years and we need to get back to it. And to do that – to be able to have the people and financial resources necessary to plant churches that have a high-probability of a successful launch and long-term survival – we need to grow. We need to almost double in size to about 1,000-1,200 people: far below what anyone would consider to be a mega-church.

And we believe that because of what's happening in our building now and what all of us together will do to facilitate the new people who want to become part of our congregation, we'll get close to those numbers over the next few years. So, just understand, we're not trying to become a

mega-church; but we do want to be a mega-influence church. Ok? I just want to make sure that's very clear.

Escape to Trouble

So, where were we before I took us on that little journey? Ah, yes, we were talking about how we're following the Children of Israel on *their journey!*

Last week, we saw how it began: with God miraculously intervening and freeing the whole nation of about 2M people or so from hundreds of years of slavery to the Pharaohs of Egypt ... in the middle of the night ... with Pharaoh imploring them to please leave (after the angel of death had killed all the firstborn of Egypt) ... and the people of Egypt themselves showering them with gold and silver and jewels and clothing as sort of a peace offering.

The massive movement of people and animals was like nothing anyone had ever seen or experienced. It was a thunderous, glorious victory.

They were free at last ... and they hadn't done anything at all! *God had done it* – and not because they were special or deserving or had somehow earned their freedom from captivity. God had simply chosen to love them and had compassion on their suffering ... *and* He wanted them to become a people and a nation that modeled what it meant to love and be loved by the One True God, in hopes that other people and nations would see that and also desire to love God and be loved by Him.

And in those first few days of freedom and joy, it was so clear and so compelling. They truly were the People of God ... invited to experience the life of God ... and called to

do the work of God. He was even providing a pillar of cloud to guide them during the day and a pillar of fire to give them light at night!

But just when you think everything's okay and everything's going right (as the song said) life has a funny way of sneaking up on you. Except in the case of the Israelites it wasn't *life* that was sneaking up on them. It was Pharaoh's army. And they weren't exactly *sneaking*. Three days after leaving Egypt, as dawn's early light appeared on the eastern horizon, a distant rumble soon became a loud roar ... the roar of chariots and horses and riders in a full-on pursuit with one goal in mind – the capture and re-enslavement of the people of Israel. Pharaoh had changed his mind!

The Bible tells us ...

They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to

Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"

Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Exodus 14:10-14 (NIV)

And that's exactly what happened.

The cloud moved between the people of Israel and Pharaoh's army to shield them with darkness.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

Exodus 14:21-22 (NIV)

Once they were on the other side, the cloud lifted and Pharaoh's army saw what had happened. And they too began to cross on the dry ground in pursuit.

But ...

*Then the Lord said to Moses,
"Stretch out your hand over*

*the sea so that the waters
may flow back over the
Egyptians and their chariots
and horsemen.” Exodus
14:21 (NIV)*

And that’s what Moses did. And that’s what happened. And the people of Israel rejoiced with singing and dancing and feasting and praising God.

More importantly, ...

*When the Israelites saw the
mighty hand of the Lord
displayed against the
Egyptians, the people feared
the Lord and put their trust in
him and in Moses his servant.
Exodus 14:31 (NIV)*

“From now on,” they thought, “everything’s gonna be okay and everything’s gonna go right because we’re the People of God, invited to experience the life of God, called

to do the work of God.”

And that’s exactly how it was ... *for three days*. When the Israelites crossed the sea, they didn’t enter into the Promised Land; they entered into the desert. And in the desert, there is very little water – not nearly enough to provide for millions of people! So God, after some wailing and gnashing of teeth on the part of the Children of Israel, miraculously provides water.

“Now,” they thought, “everything’s gonna be *okay* ... and everything’s gonna go *right* ... because *we’re the People of God* ...” only, it didn’t. In fact, if you read the entire story in the book of Exodus and Numbers, you see that they continually face many challenges and obstacles along the way.

- Once the water problem is solved, there is a food problem.

- Once the food problem is solved (with manna – a bread-like substance which appears on the ground every day except the Sabbath), there's a terrorist problem: the people are attacked by the Amalekites.
- Once the Amalekites are defeated (in yet another display of Divine intervention), there is a management problem. Moses simply cannot, by himself, handle all the issues that come up on a daily basis with the people.
- Once the management problem is solved (by Moses delegating authority to wise assistants), there is an idolatry problem. Moses goes up on Mt. Sinai to get the 10 Commandments from God, but when he's gone for 40 days and 40 nights the people fear that he has died

and they have been abandoned by God. So, they make a huge golden calf from all their gold and silver, and begin to worship it in a most pagan fashion.

- Moses returns and solves the idolatry problem by disciplining the people for their disobedience, but then there's a communication problem: in his anger he breaks the stone tablets and has to go back up on the mountain to get another set! Was it ever going to end?!

40 days later, he returns again. This time there is no idol, so Moses gives them the Law, the Torah, which is what distinguishes the nation of Israel from all the other nations and makes them unique (and we'll talk about that next week). They hold a huge building campaign to build a moveable tabernacle where God promises to dwell in Spirit day and night and, at this point, you

think: “finally, it’s gonna be okay, everything’s gonna go right.”

But there’s a boredom problem, then a jealousy problem ... and you think it can’t get any worse until

It’s almost two years to the day they left Egypt, when the nation of Israel (along with the mobile church – the tabernacle) gathers near the Jordan River at a place called Kadesh Barnea. On the other side of the Jordan is Canaan – the land of Promise. *They’re almost there* ... and then, this happens.

Video – The Twelve Spies

<SLIDE SET 2>

Now, that’s a humorous way to present the story ... and Joshua and Caleb were rewarded by God but, for the rest of the

Children of Israel, this was a serious, serious crisis.

The Bible tells us that after hearing this report from the spies that there are giants in the land ...

That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder.

"Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader

*and go back to Egypt.”
Numbers 14:4 (NIV)*

And, with that, the Bible says, God’s patience had reached its limit. In the past, the people had lamented over how they missed the food of Egypt, even the graves of Egypt but this is the first time they’ve actually expressed the idea of deposing Moses and returning.

So God spoke to Moses and told him to say to the people:

“As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say: In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more... Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb and Joshua.

Numbers 14:28-30 (NIV)

"As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. [They] will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness.

"I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me."

*Numbers 14:31,33,35
(NIV)*

Strong words, strong judgment ... and that's what happened. For 40 years the nation of Israel wandered in the desert until everyone over the age of 20 had died off ... which has led more than one commentator to observe

that ...

“It took only 40 hours to get Israel out of Egypt, but it took 40 years to get the Egypt out of Israel.”

The Point of the Story

Now, I'm pretty sure at this point that some of you are thinking, "This is a very interesting story, kind of dramatic, a little cheesy on the video, but, why are you telling us this? What does this have to do with the journey that we're on as a church? Are you saying that some of us aren't going to enter into the new auditorium and experience the Grand Opening – or some crazy analogy like that?"

No, that's not what I'm trying to say and that's not my purpose. My purpose is to illustrate the point that just because you're part of the People of God, it doesn't necessarily follow that everything's gonna be

okay and everything's gonna go right.

And more importantly, to point out that if you live with that expectation, it is very easy to fall away and miss out on the Promised Land when things inevitably don't pan out as you hope.

And I want to be crystal clear that I'm not talking about missing out on Heaven or losing your salvation. I'm talking about missing out on whatever blessing God wants to give you in the here and now. After all, these men and women in the desert didn't lose their identity as the People of God because of their disobedience. They just missed out on the blessing of entering into the Promised Land. Moses lost it, too. And it was an extremely bitter loss for all of them.

So, this is not about the security of your salvation in Jesus. Instead, what I'm trying to do with this story today is similar to what the Apostle Paul was trying to do with it when he

wrote to the first century Church at Corinth to remind them that sometimes being the People of God is hard work and it takes a lot of effort.

This is what he wrote in chapter 9 beginning in verse 24:

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?

Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

*1 Corinthians 9:24-25
(NIV)*

Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer

beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (NIV)

What's he saying? He's saying, "I have to work at this. If I want the prize, if I want the crown, sometimes I have to tough it out."

And then he turns to this story we've been talking about today as an example:

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

Now, what Paul is talking about here is their identity. He's saying "these people were the

People of God, invited to experience the life of God, called to do the work of God ... *just like you* are the People of God, invited to experience the life of God, called to do the work of God."

*Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 1
Corinthians 10:1-5 (NIV)*

In spite of the fact that they were the People of God, most of them didn't make it to the Promised Land because they did not run the race in such a way as to win the prize ... and they were disqualified.

Then Paul concludes with a warning:

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us. So, if you think you are

*standing firm, be careful that
you don't fall! 1 Corinthians
10:11-12 (NIV)*

In other words, don't let down your guard. Don't think that what happened to *them* won't happen to *you*. Don't assume that you're not susceptible to the same kinds of thinking and attitudes that derailed them. I mean, they started out so well, so strongly, (with miracles that none of us will ever see!) and in two short years every single one of them (adults, that is) fell off the path to which God had called them and missed out on the blessing. Paul is saying, that could happen to you, too, if you don't run the race in such a way as to win.

Obstacles and Challenges

"Ok, Rick, I see that ... I get the point of what Paul is saying ... but I'm still not sure why

you're telling us this. What are you getting at?"

Here's the deal, about a year ago, we started talking seriously about what God was calling us to do as a congregation – to go on this journey which we called "Accelerate" – a campaign to financially support a greatly expanded vision and commitment to do three things:

1. Reach Seekers – people who are outside of this congregation, outside of these walls, who are wondering, "who is Jesus? Could this have any relevance in my life?"
2. Build a Family – people who love and care for each other so well that other people want to be a part of it.
3. Plant Churches

We called it *Accelerate* because for too long

as a congregation we'd been coasting along and not making the most of who we are and the unique vision God gave us – and it was time to change that.

And, last fall, we presented this vision and it was clear and it was compelling, and many of us said “yes! I want to go on that journey.” And many of us made a two-year commitment to either increase our giving or to begin giving altogether.

And then we started out with what we called the “Big Give” where everyone gave as large of a gift as possible during the month of December. Over 10% of our total pledge of \$3.7M was received in just those four weeks. It was like nothing we'd ever seen before – a glorious victory – and we were on our way!

But, like the song said, “just when you think everything's okay and everything's going

right ... life has a funny way of sneaking up on you." And because that's how it works (even for those who are part of the People of God), it's very easy to fall away and not reach your goal – just like it happened to the Children of Israel in the desert.

In fact, as I've been thinking about it, I wonder if some of us – when it comes to the pledge goal we set personally – might be running into some of the same challenges and obstacles they did.

Specifically, I wonder if some of us are facing ...

1. Difficulties caused by the enemy.

The Israelites had to deal with being attacked by the Amalekites. Well, they're not around anymore, but you and I do have a spiritual enemy, the Bible says, who attacks

us and tries to discourage us and keep us from doing God's will.

Over the past two weeks we've had these meetings called the "Accelerate: Half Way There" meetings. Many of you came to those. And in those meetings we opened the floor up and said, "tell us your story. What's it been like for you this past year?" And people stood up and told us "God has blessed me and I've been able to do this ..." But, others stood up and said, "you know, this has been difficult. I've lost a job" or "I've had unexpected expenses because of illness or family" or "I thought something was going to work out on the income side, but it didn't. It's been difficult and it's made it much more challenging than we'd expected, and it's hard to give what we said we'd give because the enemy is working."

I wonder if some of us – when it comes to reaching the goal we set - are struggling with ...

2. Doubt over whether or not this campaign & project really is a good idea.

That's kind of what happened to Israel in the desert. They got out there and many started thinking "maybe this Moses guy didn't really hear from God. Maybe we weren't really supposed to leave Egypt."

And I think some of us are looking at the cost of the remodel and at the size of our congregation or hearing about growing and we're thinking, "I don't know. Maybe Rick and the other leaders really aren't leading us in the right direction. Do we really need to grow that much?" And that doubt is making it hard for some of us to fulfill our commitment.

I wonder if some of us are struggling with ...

3. Discontentment with what's happening in our lives in general or in the church.

A lot of the Israelites didn't like having to eat manna every day. They didn't like having that dust in their teeth. They didn't like how Moses was leading. They missed the food and the certainty of life in Egypt. Eventually, all of that discontentment ate a hole into their calling and they gave up.

I wonder if that's happening to some of us. We're not happy with how things are going in our lives; maybe it's our jobs, maybe it's our kids, maybe it's our marriage, maybe it's our health. We're not happy; we're discontent with it. Or, maybe we're looking at this church and we're going, "I don't know, I just don't like my small group anymore." Or, "McGinniss, he just keeps

rattling on about stuff, and I don't like that preaching anymore." Or, "I don't like that music ...," and that discontent is building up and is making it hard for us to give what we said we'd give.

I wonder if some of us – when it comes to reaching the goal we set - are struggling with ...

4. Distraction by idols (other things we can spend money on).

Moses went on the mountain and was gone for 40 days, and the people looked around and kind of got distracted. We have silver and gold ... hmmm ... what can we do with it??? They mixed it all together and supposedly out of the fire comes this golden calf. Well, *they* made the golden calf. *They* chose to follow an idol.

And, you and I can do the same thing. We can say, "Well, God wants us to do *this*, but *that* looks kind of cool, maybe I should go do *that*..." And before you know it, the money we had committed to God goes over *there*. Or, maybe we just lose track. We're just undisciplined so that even though we want to give, there isn't anything left because we've been distracted with other things.

AND the reason I'm telling you this is ...

... because a year ago we – as a congregation – made a huge commitment financially (based on what people were already giving plus what they pledged to give) to do three things.

- Remodel (seekers)
- Support current ministry (family)

- Plant a church in OPKS that will launch next fall.

And the reality is that right now, we're running behind pace. We're 45% of the way through the campaign and we've received about 41% of the total projection, which means we're about \$140K behind. Frankly, that's not a huge concern at this point from the church side of things. We've been here before in other capital campaigns and so we're not worried. (Well maybe a little!)

What is a much greater concern, however – and this is the reason I'm telling you all of this today ...

A much greater concern at this point is that none of us miss out on the blessing that will be ours if we fulfill the commitment we made!

And so, I want to strongly encourage you to

run this race to win. I want to strongly encourage you that you can't just sit back and expect that just because you belong to the People of God and God called you to do something and you made a commitment, that all is going to go well. Life is going to sneak up on you in the form of difficulties, doubt, discontentment and distractions, and try to pull you away from reaching that goal. And so you and I have got to do what Paul talked about: you have to get tough with yourself sometimes. You've got to run to win.

Running to Win

And that applies to so much more in our lives than just this Accelerate deal, but very quickly I want to give you three things that I think will help you – and me – to not only stay the course, but will help us run to win in that particular area.

1. Understand that your commitment, my commitment, is to God, not just the church.

A lot of people think, "well, I gave a commitment card to the church, but I'm kind of tired of the church and I don't feel ..." No, when we made the commitment, we made it to God. It's kind of like when the Israelites were in the desert and they would say, "Moses, we don't have food. Moses, we don't have water." Moses this and Moses that and finally Moses said, "Listen, you are not complaining against us, but against God, because your commitment is to God." And I think we need to remember that as we do these kinds of things. If God told you to do this, then your commitment is to Him, not to me or to the church.

I think it will help you run to win if you ...

2. Set a clear goal.

What's a good goal? The principle is stated over and over in the Bible. It's something you determine on your own.

Give in proportion to what you have. Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. 2 Corinthians 8:11-12 (NLT)

If you have a lot, you should give a lot. If you have a little, you should give a little.

And this also means there shouldn't be any guilt or pressure, especially if you're experiencing difficulties from the enemy. Give according to what you have ... not what you don't have.

Of course, the problem I see with most

people, and sometimes myself, is that they understand the principle here but they don't plan for the practice of this principle. So, as we move towards this Grand Opening and as we prepare for this opening launch ...

A question we're going to put in front of every person who says, "North Heartland is my church," is: what is my financial commitment for the rest of this campaign?

And some of us will say, "well, I did that *last* year. I turned in a card last year, and it's good." OK, great, do it again. If you go to God and say, "God, if this is what you want me to do, I'm going to do it again." Great.

Some of us are going to go, "I didn't do that last year. I didn't take it very seriously." I think as we go into this, I'm begging you, do this, for your own good.

And for some, you go, "I set this number.

This is what I committed to, but the reality in my life is that it's less than this." Guess what? You should give a lower number, "God, this is a commitment I'm making to you in the next year."

And for some of us, we're doing way better, and we need to say, "this is a commitment I'm going to make to you."

We're going to put this question in front of every person who is part of North Heartland. Not this week, but as time gets closer to this, you'll have the opportunity to make a commitment to this, "God, this is the part I want to play going forward in this."

So, first of all, understand that your generosity commitment isn't to the church – it's to God. And then set a clear goal.

3. Then finally, you have to put first things

first.

In all the years I've been a pastor, I've only seen a handful of people who can make and keep a financial commitment to God without giving *first* before they do anything else with their money.

Most people I've seen go with the leftover approach: "I'll spend whatever I want to spend and then just hope that when I get to the end that what's leftover is enough to meet the commitment I made to God."

It just doesn't work. If you want to meet your commitment to God, the only way for 99% of us is to write that check first, every time you get paid.

Conclusion

I could say more on this but I think these

three ideas probably have the highest leverage for any of us, if this is what we're trying to accomplish, if we're trying to fulfill this commitment that God has asked us to make.

So, let me close with one more verse from Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church in which he addressed this very same issue with them – their giving. It's kind of ironic – apparently this congregation had also made a pledge a year earlier to support some work that God was doing. And, they, too, needed to be encouraged to finish strong.

This is what Paul wrote:

Finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness

*you showed in the beginning
be matched now by your
giving.*

*2 Corinthians 8:10-
11 (NLT)*

Why? So that you won't miss out on the blessing of getting to where God told you to go; so that you won't be disqualified ... so that you will receive the prize!

And, that's what I want for you, and that's what I want for me. So let's pray to that end.

God, I just want to lift up our whole group sitting here today and say this is what we want. We want to reach the prize. You gave us a goal. Many of us in this room know there was a goal, and God, some of us can't reach that goal. It's too difficult and we overshot, and there's grace for that. But, God, some of us have gotten distracted. Some of us

are discontent about everything and so we're just kind of pulling away from you. We're just doubting that maybe this is not what we're supposed to do. And we've let all these things creep in and we're not fulfilling our commitment. So, God, I just want to pray for us this morning, that the eagerness we showed last year would be matched by our giving, that you'd give us that vision and give us that strength. Help us to run to win.

God, I also realize this morning that there are people sitting here who may not be part of this congregation, who are listening and going, "that's kind of interesting, but in my life right now there are some huge battles. There are some places I'd like to go, that God is calling me to go. I'd like to see my marriage move toward the Promised Land. I'd like to see my family and my

kids – there are things that I’d like to see happen.” And God, for us, we’re facing the same things. We’re facing difficulties from the enemy. We’re facing doubt, discontentment and distraction. It’s pulling us away from where you want us to go. So, I pray in this moment, that we would commit to run this race to win because, it’s worth it. Getting to the Promised Land is worth it. That’s where you’re going to take us if we stay strong and stay focused. Help us run to win. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Feature – “One Day You Will”

Endnotes

ⁱ I’m referring to Alanis Morissette’s song “Ironic”