

Third Thursday Notes

February 20, 2025 - Dealing with Discouragement

We all get discouraged. So, what do we do when discouragement comes our way?

The Why

1. **Pride**
 - Sometimes we feel humiliated when things don't go as planned; this is a reflection on our pride.
2. **Identity**
 - When we don't accomplish what we set out to accomplish, or seemingly fail and something, it can bring discouragement if our identity is tied to the wrong thing.
3. **Message**
 - The message of the gospel is offensive, therefore we should not be surprised when results seem to lag.
 - The message of the gospel is actively resisted by Satan, therefore we should not be surprised when he works to disrupt and frustrate spiritual progress.

Three Responses

1. **Cry out to God.**
 - Be honest with God; He wants to hear your heart.
 - Remember the past; both the Scriptures *and* what God has done in your life.
2. **Control what you can control.**
 - You can invest into students, but you can't control what they do with your investment.
 - Set dreams (20 students coming to faith), but also set goals that you can control (times per week you pray for students, time you spend preparing, times you spend hanging out with students, etc.)
3. **Godly friends.**
 - Friends are a gift from God.
 - Friends require time and effort.
 - Friends want you to "bug" them and to be honest with them. You know that this is how you feel when the situation is reversed.
4. (bonus Response) **Call us!**
 - The RMD Youth Leader team is always here to talk. Drop us an email with your phone number and we'll call you back!
 - Chris - ctweedy@rmdcma.com
 - Ben - ben@gallatinvalleychurch.org