First Impressions

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INTRODUCTION

- It's interesting how your first impressions kind of set things with you.
- Why do we sometimes not get any deeper than just the surface?

1 We Keep God at Arm's Length

Hebrews 4:12–13

- Sometimes I think we do that with God, too. We keep him in arm's length so we don't expose too much of our inner self to him.
- No creature is hidden from God, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.
- With God, there's nothing hidden, and we're going to have to give an account to him for everything that we do.

2 Are You Okay With Where You Are?

Acts 17:30–31

- Are you okay with where you are? And that's a question that we need to ask ourselves at all times.
- The problem, though, is not lack of knowledge or ignorance, but it's being unwilling to better yourself in that state.
- He now commands all people everywhere to repent because he has fixed the day in which he will judge the world.
- That gives me a little bit of motivation to want to get out of my little comfortable shell because ignorance is not an excuse.

3 Unconsciously Incompetent: You Don't Know What You Don't Know

1 Corinthians 3:2; Proverbs 9:10

- We all start out and we're unconsciously incompetent. basically, you don't know what you don't know.
- Until you're taught and someone shows you, it's the very first step.
- I fed you milk and not solid food because you weren't ready.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

4 Consciously Incompetent: That's Where Training Comes In

Hebrews 12:11–13; Titus 2:11–12

- Once we've learned a little bit, we become conscious of our incompetence.
- That's where training comes in. this training part, you can spend a lot of time there.
- All discipline seems painful at the time and not joyful, but later it produces the fruit of peace and righteousness for those that are trained by it.
- The end goal here is to not just remain at the state that you're in, but to train to get stronger, to improve, to not be lame.

5 Consciously Competent: That's Where Coaching Comes In

1 Timothy 4:15–16

- Once we've trained and we've worked, we become consciously competent.
- We're doing it and we're doing okay, but we've got to think about it.
- As a congregation and as Christians, we need that too, don't we? Because we don't all have it figured out internally on our own.
- Take pains with these things, be absorbed in them so that your progress may be evident to all.

6 Unconsciously Competent: You Just Do It

Colossians 3:12–17; 2 Peter 1:8–15; 2 Peter 2:20–22

- You become unconsciously competent. You just do it.
- That doesn't mean that you're perfect. Because none of us are.
- In this stage, you need support. We need support. Even the elders need support.
- Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
- Perceptions trained through practice. Means we've got to do it, folks.

THE CHALLENGE

So again, how well do we know Jesus? And that's my question that I'm gonna leave you with tonight. And we'd like to encourage you to never be okay with where you are.

MY NOTES