

7/11/10

Often I like to use a portion of my column to share what we are talking about within the youth group or to summarize a powerful event or discussion that changed the lives of teens. Recently I led an event and the theme was "Bragging Rights". Here is a summary of the discussion:

Do you have the new **iPhone 4** yet? I waited in line for over an hour in the heat to get one. The AT&T store only had 60 on the day they came out and I wanted to be one of the chosen. So I got up before everyone in else in my house and made the necessary sacrifice to get what I wanted, the best phone on the market. Initially my new phone impressed me mostly because of the new features and speed- it has the same processor as the new "iPad computers", so that's a pretty fast phone. After using my phone for a couple of days, I noticed that it was dropping lots of calls. Many business calls were interrupted, sometimes 3 or 4 times in the same conversation. I later learned that Apple publicly addressed this and is working on a solution, but I was no less **disappointed**.

I realize for the most part that we pretty much get what we want. What is it that you set your mind to? We are resourceful, intelligent, and savvy. I did not think twice about waiting in line at 7am. But do I make that kind of sacrifice for a relationship with God? Is my "status" wrapped up in the latest technology or something that is destined to disappoint or quickly become outdated? Do I get as excited about what God is working on in my heart and mind as I do about a novel gadget? Do I truly see that my "bragging rights" are solely wrapped up in the fact that I am a **child of God**, and NOTHING ELSE?

Spiritual discipline is a journey. I don't like to keep prayer appointments with God when I am tired. I don't like kneeling to long because it hurts. I don't like talking about Jesus or faith too long because people might think I am weird. But God never drops calls; He **never disappoints**. Why am I so slow to sacrifice for Him, to be proud of Him, to be committed to Him?

I must confess, I only bought a new phone because I dropped my old one on the driveway and cracked it. This occurred the day before the new iPhone came out. So although I enjoy technology, I am not as up on it as this blog may imply. However I used this experience to examine my heart. I see better that the way I spend my time and the areas of my life where I make sacrifices easily reveal what is **truly important** to me.

High school teens- If you enjoyed this topic, you are most welcome to join us for this kind of discussion and fun every Sunday and Wednesday night at 7pm at the SSYM youth room at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church.

Peace,
Greg