**Not My Will But Yours | Sept 13**



by [**David**](http://www.learnservelove.com/author/david/) on September 6, 2013 in [**By David**](http://www.learnservelove.com/category/by-david/), [**PA Updates**](http://www.learnservelove.com/category/pa-updates/)

Numbers: 2 camps. 21 days. 18 campers. 5 toilets plunged. 2 mattresses cleaned and sanitized. 6 hours of sleep each night (barely). 126 meal tables cleared including countless yuck buckets. 50+ miles of running. 1700+ push-ups. 150+ pool/pond laps.

Words: Impatient, selfish, rude, mean, inappropriate, obnoxious, disobedient, rebellious, ungrateful and thankless.

Thoughts: Many times I would walk up the camp road between activity periods or after a meal and have a little heart-to-heart with God.

Me: “God, you know I don’t “want” to be here. This is hard. This is overwhelming. I’m exhausted and in pain. Please give me the desire and ability to do Your work here. I can’t do any of this on my own. I need you.”

God: ” I AM with you. My grace is sufficient for you. You know I will give you everything you need. I give you your every breath. Rest in my strength. And besides, really?! You know you’re supposed to “do all things without grumbling or complaining.” Oh, and just a little reminder: You think your campers are all those things?! You are every one of those things towards Me at different times and yet I still absolutely love you more than you can comprehend right now. Even when you were like that, I gave you My only Son, “Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:6-8). Learn from Him. Be My servant and do My work! I am drawing these guys to Myself. You are My hands, My feet and My mouth to show these guys My heart and My love.”

Me: [Silence]

After being humbled by this reality and then confessing my negativity, an indescribable peace and a miraculous renewal of physical, mental and spiritual strength would come over me confirming His promise: “Surely I am with you always”.

Camp days would usually begin around 6:30 with a staff prayer meeting followed by the “great awakening” of campers, either by a trumpet reveille or threats of tossing the guys, sleeping bags and all, into the lake if they didn’t get out of bed. Don’t worry parents, though the threats were not empty, I never had to follow through. We would all line up for the flag raising followed by a short exercise, quiet time and then a feeding frenzy breakfast similar to what you all watched on “Shark Week” last month. Cabin clean-up was always interesting. Gross does not adequately describe some of the things I saw and had to deal with. (Thank you, moms, for somehow doing this the rest of the year.) In an attempt to completely wear out the campers, each day was filled with various activity periods they could sign up for such as archery, canoeing, fishing, swimming, crafts, carpentry, outdoorsmanship, running, biking, frisbee, field games, etc. After dinner, the entire camp would gather and play very exciting games such as Razzleblast, Capture the Flag, Egg Football, and Insane Dodgeball. Somehow the campers were NOT tired when it was time for lights out and sleeping-bag-sled races down the cabin steps would usually wrap up around 11:30.

During morning chapel at Iroquoina, Matt Huffman brought a series of messages on the judges of Israel and their cycle of “Idolatry – Bondage – Repentance – Deliverance – Peace” with many practical applications for living as followers of Christ, sojourners, in this foreign land. At Greenwood, Jake Santos taught about the life of David as a picture of Christ with an emphasis on the questions: “If a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?” and “How can you be saved from your enemies (the deceiver, the world and your flesh)?” With clear Biblical examples and explanations, Jake showed how David delivered Israel then and how Christ can deliver us now if we come to Him. At Iroquoina, campers could choose from variety of evening Bible classes taught by counselors. I led one about “Why Creation Matters” and had quite a few campers that were very interested in this topic. Each night at Greenwood one of the counselors would give a simple and clear gospel message with an emphasis on the choice each one of us must make: Believe and receive eternal life or don’t believe and be separated from God for eternity. Early in the week I had the opportunity to share “the good news” from “Creation to Christ”.

At both camps there was a clear focus on God’s Word, His love for us and His will for our lives. Many of the young guys were clearly affected by this central aspect of camp and I wanted to share with you a few short stories of God reaching into the lives of some of the guys. Too many great things happened for me to recount everything right now. Over the next few days I will add a new story of one of the guys as I write them down. Please check back soon! Thank you all for your prayers . . . God heard them . . . and He answered!





