

June 30, 2019
Series: Summer at Woodland Hills
Part 5: Aim Small Miss Small
Adam Donyes

1. Adam began his sermon on Jesus being the center mark we should aim for with a series of illustrative pictures. One was of his dog.

*Do you remember her name and why she received that name? **(Sippi because his wife came from Mississippi.)**

*Do you have or have you had a dog or cat you named for a reason besides you just liked it?

*How did Adam use Sippi in his devotion for male camp counselors to teach them about Jesus being better than any other person or thing they give their time and energy to? **(He gave each a piece of Sippi's dog food while he held a filet mignon. No matter how often they called to Sippi, he did not leave Adam's or the steak's side.**

After Sippi gobbled the steak, he had the boys eat the piece of dog food to remind them not to settle for less than Jesus being their priority.)

2. What are some things we “aim” for in life that Adam mentioned and any others you might name? **(401K; where kids go to college; career/success; boat, nice car and other big-ticket purchases or toys; popularity or fame.)**

3. I Corinthians 9:24 says, “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 a 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.”

*What did Adam say the Prize is? (Jesus)

*Have you ever thought the prize might be something else in this context?

*If you take this verse literally, you might surmise most of us won't get the prize. If you take it as metaphor, what might be the point here? **(Keep focused, train hard, want the prize above everything else?)**

4. For most of us, we have many of our needs and even wants. Have you ever been in a situation where you knew, not just acknowledged, that Jesus is enough?

5. Adam said “Every athlete exercise self-control in all things.”

Have you ever accomplished anything that requires enormous self-control?

6. In John 10:10 Jesus says, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

*Do you know many Christians who experience abundant or “full” life?

*Would you say following Christ has given you abundant life?

*Do you think Christians in general are better at claiming eternal life than abundant life?

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7. I Corinthians 9:26 says this about gaining the prize: “Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly: I do not fight like a man beating the air.”

*Adam made a connection between the words “aimlessly” and “uncertainty.” How do you feel when you are uncertain about anything?

*What was the majority of your time focused on this week?

8. Hebrew 4:12—“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

*What are examples of a weight in this context? What are examples of sin?

*In the metaphor of race, why is it so important to lay aside weights and sins?

*How does this verse encourage you?

*Who are among your “great cloud of witnesses”?

9. What is going on in your life that you need to remember and say, “He’s got this” or as the popular saying goes, “God’s got this”?

10. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 says, “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

*List things we value that are seen and things we value that are unseen. Have is it true that the “seen” are temporary.

*How do you feel about the “unseen”?

11. Our last song incorporated the old song “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”

*When do you first remember hearing that song? Was it an important one to you and if so, why?

*“Turn your eyes upon Jesus / and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.” Do these line ring true for you? In what way?