

March 30, 2020

Taylor University Students

Over the past two weeks you have found yourselves battling through a mix of fear, sadness, anxiety, and frustration. The COVID-19 reality in our world has severely impacted all of us. Spring Break plans and trips were disrupted. For seniors, the possibility of not having a graduation ceremony has shattered their dreams and left them in tears. Borders all across the world have been shut down and have startled our international students with questions whether or not they can return home. First Generation students have been left in a state of confusion and, again, to navigate a new unfamiliar territory, with online classes, on their own. To all of you Taylor students I want to let you know that I see you, I am with you, and I am praying for you.

Many of you are struggling to find motivation to finish the remaining semester online. We do not know where the COVID-19 situation will take us next, if it will end soon, or worsen. It is an unusual time to be studying, for tomorrow is never promised. We acknowledge that the feelings of fear for the unknown, sadness, and frustration for not ending your year the way you anticipated is real. Nevertheless, today I want to remind you that there is a light at the end of the tunnel if we fix our eyes on Jesus Christ and trust in Him. As you trust in Him, I want to encourage you to finish your semester strong. Remember why you chose to study in the first place.

We were all created to have purpose. We read about the superheroes –nurses, doctors, truck drivers– people on the front line fighting COVID-19, these are the type of people many of you were purposefully created to be. They did not become superheroes by morning, it took them years with unexpected hills they had to cross to reach their purpose.

COVID-19 is the perfect example that anything can happen at any given time and we therefore must be prepared to confront it. C.S. Lewis (1939) once wrote “Human culture has always had to exist under the shadow of something infinitely more important than itself. If men had postponed the search for knowledge and beauty until they were secure the search would never have begun.” There will always be circumstances in our lives, some bigger than others, that will make us question whether or not we should continue to run the race or stop. Today, I encourage you to remember the race you have been running, and run in such a way as to win the prize, rather than focusing on the circumstances that surround you.

What will happen tomorrow or years from now is unknown, but you can be the answer to confront that given situation. You can be the new hero or be the one to show people the answer. When you feel discouraged or unequipped to navigate through the new journey of online courses, remember C.S. Lewis’ (1939) words “The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while the conditions are still unfavorable.” Step up to the challenge and focus on finishing your race. Most importantly, hold on to God’s promises, as it says in Romans 8:28 (The New International Version), “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” You are not alone in this journey, May God be with you today and every day.

Sincerely,

Maribel Magallanes

References

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