



Monday Matters August 13, 2012

Take Me Back

The other day I was reading a blog posted by Matthew Barnett, co-founder of the Los Angeles Dream Center and pastor of Angelus Temple. The blog was entitled "Confessions of a Pastor who Lost his Edge" and I quote the following from that blog.

Last night I cuddled up next to my beautiful 8-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son. It's the place I love to be. However, it's also the place where I received an eye-opening revelation.

We decided to watch one of my favorite movies of all time, Rocky III. There was a part in the movie where Rocky was trying to avenge his first loss to Clubber Lang. He wanted to be champion again but had lost his motivation to even know where to start. Haven't we all been there? We want so desperately to get the fire back into our lives that we once had but it feels like an endless pursuit with no results. Rocky lost his will to be champion. Then Apollo Creed, his new trainer, takes Rocky back to the gym where he used to train in what appears to be a warehouse on Skid Row in Los Angeles. It's old, it stinks, and it's perfect. Then Apollo said something to Rocky so powerful that nearly put me in tears in that rather lifeless moment. He said, "You got to go back to where it all began to find your edge."

Andrae Crouch and the Disciples



"Take Me Back" from 1975

Quote of the Week

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you too can become

Honestly, ever since my blood clots four months ago, I feel like I've lost my edge. I mean I know how to force myself to "Suck it up" but something was missing. It's funny how God can give you one line from a movie and bring it all back home. Simply put, I have pastored a church for four months with a loss of edge. No excuses! I'M GOING BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.

It's time to pray like that teenage kid who was scared to preach his first sermon when I came to LA. It's time to serve with the tenacity of my first month when I went door to door just hoping one person would come to church. It's time to love my wife like the first time we dated. It's time to go back to where it all began. You see, most of the time we lose our edge is because we refuse to go back to the places of passion that built us. Sure, we weren't all professionals back then, but we needed God. Losing your edge is a numb place to be. It's funny that Rocky's solution to regain his edge was found in a sweaty old gym. Just maybe, the answer to getting your edge back is in the simplicity of revisiting the landmark places you once gained so much strength. The answer just might be going back to where it all began. I know, for me, it's time to visit some of those old places where it was raw, right, and radical. It's the place to find the edge.

Regardless if you are a pastor, a church leader, work in the private sector, the government, or you are simply alive, you have most likely lost your edge at some time. Matthew's words are just as meaningful to you as him. We need to go back where it all first began. Go back and find that passion, find that motivation, find that love for what you do. Find that lost edge.

great.

~ Mark Twain ~

**Heading to Alaska as
Missionaries
September 10, 2012**



Bethel Dream Center



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