

Mark Endrizzi – Chapel 8/2/2015

“Patience”

Good morning. Welcome to chapel on this beautiful Sunday. It gives me great pleasure to be delivering the penultimate chapel of the summer. I would like to start today off by inviting everyone to rise and join the choir in singing “Can’t You See”, which is an insert in your hymnals.

“Can’t You See”

Fellas, we live in a hectic, fast-paced world. We’re governed by deadlines, ruled by records, and constantly brainwashed into craving speed and convenience. Luckily for us, for three and a half to seven weeks every summer we live in a place where these things are cast from our lives. So today, I’m encouraging all of you to slow things down and have... some... patience.

“He that can have patience can have what he will.” –Ben Franklin

“Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.” –Aristotle

And finally from William Faulkner, “Sure enough, even waiting will end... if you can just wait long enough.”

I would like to invite the choir back up to lead us in singing “For What it’s Worth”, also an insert.

“For What it’s Worth”

One important thing I've learned during my time at Timanous is patience. Now, to those who have heard bellows emanating from Loons demanding to know why the cabin is not immediately clean during cabin clean-up, I will remind you that Timanous is a place for counselors to continue learning as much as it is for campers, so sorry for disturbing you, everyone in Mallards through Crows. But this does lead me to my first request: Have patience with others. If you can do so, I guarantee that it will make your life both at and away from Timanous much more enjoyable.

Remember first, that no one has the same background and experience that you do, so don't treat them like they should have, or ridicule them for not. If someone you're talking to interrupts you for something, say they didn't know what "penultimate" meant in your chapel speech, it may be best to simply explain that it means "second to last", rather than getting mad at them for taking your time to ask a seemingly mundane question. If you have that patience, you will have helped that person to learn something new, and I guarantee that you will feel better about yourself. Plus, I think you won't miss those two seconds all that much, as you spent them building a friendship.

Remember also, that nobody has exactly the same opinions as you. But that is good! If everyone had the same opinions, the world would be a much less exciting place. Every person you will ever encounter experiences the world as if they are the center of it, just as every one of you does; it is part of being human. However, everyone has different eyes, different ears, different noses, different tongues, and even different thoughts and feelings. The result of this is that everyone experiences the world differently. You will get in arguments in your life; I won't

argue with anyone on that. I'm not saying avoid disagreements, as they are inevitable. I'm saying that when you do find yourself in a disagreement, have some patience with whoever you're talking to. Do not immediately dismiss whatever they say as preposterous just because you do not agree. Try to pull yourself out of your own world and plop yourself in theirs, if only for a few seconds. Give them the time that they deserve. If you can do this, you may find that your entire opinion changes or that you end up seeing the world in a new light.

So Loons, please have patience with me, as I learn to have more patience with you.

There is someone that I have so far neglected to encourage you to have patience with: yourself. You will not immediately succeed at everything you ever try, so don't treat yourself like you should. If this is a shock to you, then I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but here it is: You will fail. You will swing and miss in twilight league. You will capsize a sailboat. You will have bad rounds in archery and riflery. You will lose your grip on the climbing wall. The only thing that you must not do is to give up. Have patience with yourself. Persevere.

Embrace your failures; learn from them. In the words of Victor Kiam, "Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward. With enough practice, you will find the perfect balance of trim and hike, and your sailboat will cruise faster than ever. Soon enough, you will find your perfect point of aim, and your arrow will fly true. Your rifle sights will line up with the bulls-eye, if you do not rush. With enough tries, you will develop the forearm strength to get to the top of the wall, and release a mighty battle cry. If you wait for your pitch, you will feel the satisfying crack as the bat contacts the ball. And who knows, you may make it home, and win the game.

After all, if we do not persevere, then we will not progress. But if we try and try again, then every failure and success will add to the trials which help us to know ourselves.

Now please join me in reciting the Timanous prayer, found on page 5 of the hymnals.

Have some patience, with yourself and others. We only have a week and a half left in camp, and it may seem like we have to cram in everything we can, but we must still be patient. Even when our computer freezes five minutes before chapel. If in a few months, you get stir crazy while taking mid-terms or finals, be patient; next summer will be here soon enough. Remember, as Aristotle said: "Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet."

Please rise and join the choir in our final song of the morning, The Boxer, which is also and insert in your hymnals.

You may be seated.

Look to this day for it is life. The very life of life

In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of your existence.

The bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendor of beauty.

For yesterday is already a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision

But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day.

Such is the salutation of the dawn.