DT Accountability: 5/6 days

Purity: Greens

What are you thankful for as you reflect on this past week?

Looking back on the week, one particular moment I was especially grateful for was the opportunity to serve at the Klesis NSWN on Thursday. Going into this semester, at times it's felt somewhat jarring and awkward to not be heavily focusing on freshman outreach—something that has become so ingrained from my past four years of college. But when I saw the outreach efforts taking place that night, from the combined Koinonia-Klesis efforts to our own sophomores volunteering their time, I found myself so thankful to be a part of the body of Christ. As I go forward and minister to the flock of sophomores that have been given to our team, I can draw encouragement from the knowledge that I'm part of a much larger body that's striving for the same goal and Great Commission.

Additionally, this past week I found myself quite grateful for the regular morning prayer times at DL. In all the busyness and transitions taking place, something that I've begun to neglect is my regular prayer time--one of the few opportunities that I have to truly lift up my burden and intercessory appeals for my brothers and sisters in Christ. Going to DL every morning and seeing the leaflet prayer requests allowed me to look beyond my own agenda and tiredness, instead remembering the reality of the spiritual battle that's ongoing each day. And if nothing else, for that 30 minutes I was able to do battle on my knees besides my comrades on the East Coast as well as other zones, home groups, etc.

What are you current challenges or struggles?

In addition to the lackluster prayer life mentioned above, one area of my life that I've been struggling with the most are just thoughts over the future. If I'm being completely honest, I don't know exactly what the future holds in store. Now that college is over, there are so many paths the future could take. And if I'm being honest, this causes me anxiety. Ministry, marriage, career, relationships, family--all of these are things that at times seem so up in the air. In many ways, the decisions that I make in the next few years are going to have rippling impacts upon all of these areas. This has been particularly accentuated by all the transitions that have occurred so recently: Ander moving to the East Coast; Raymond Shin, Jeff Chan, and Leon Zaigirdar moving to Praxis; and Daniel Yee leaving Gracepoint. And to be fair, I don't fault any of them for making the choices that they did. I'm extremely happy for all of them if they're able to joyfully serve in their current situations. But at the same time, with everything moving so fast and things changing on a seemingly weekly basis, I can't help but wonder what the future holds for me and how God is going to lead me. Looking back at my lordship decision from sophomore year as well as one of my life verses, Matthew 6:33, these are both things that I've fought to cling onto in the midst of this. But it's certainly something that I currently struggle with and something that occupies my mental bandwidth.

How did the word of God speak to you this week?

Reflecting back upon the past week's DTs, two of the clearest lessons that have emerged for me are:

1) How privileged we are to be considered sons and daughters of God: Considering Hebrews 1, one of the most striking aspects of the text was the fact that not even the angels were given the right to be called sons and daughters of God. Just considering how lowly

I am in character and capabilities, it seems incredible that I would be considered a co-heir with Christ when so many other beings in God's creation aren't bestowed with this. And while I don't mean to claim myself be to "better" than the angels or more gifted in any way, I've just been reminded again of how incredible of a weight of glory we've been given in Christ. As so poignantly stated in Hebrews 2:11 - "For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is ashamed to call them brothers." God the Father calls me as his son and Jesus calls me a brother & co-laborer. And while none of these are roles that I have earned in any way, they are identiies that I am so grateful and fortunate to have.

2) The incredible nature of who Jesus is and what he came to accomplish: As is to be expected of Hebrews, I've also been quite struck by the reality of who Jesus is. Looking at my own inadequacies and failures in contrast to His perfection, it seems all the more remarkable that He would "...be made like his brothers in every respect..." (Hebrews 2:17). And because of this, I have no excuse when faced with my own sin. I cannot claim that Jesus is unaware of my trials nor is He unable to understand, for "...we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." It's amazing that we have Jesus as the high priest--as the mediator of our new covenant. And ultimately, He was the only one who could fulfill that covenant. Even the full weight of all human ingenuity and accomplishment--all possible sacrifices--could not accomplish the work that Jesus did with His single life ending at the cross. Without Christ, we truly are the people who are most to be pitied. But for some incredible reason and by an exceptional work of love, we have this great high priest who has not only been the perfect priest, but the perfect sacrifice as well.