

DO IT FOR A DAY

DAY 23 – DO IT NOW

Maybe the Lord will help us.

1 Samuel 14:6, NLT

In the summer of 1957, Ed Catmull, just twelve years old, was on a cross-country trip with his family, driving through a very steep canyon with no guardrails. A car coming from the opposite direction cut into his lane and Catmull's father promptly turned the wheel “in the opposite direction. His car came within two inches of going off the cliff.”...

“This is how close we came to never seeing Cars, The Incredibles or Up. Why? Ed Catmull is the co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios. That Catmull had not lived would mean that there would be no Toy Story, Toy Story 2, Toy Story 3 or Toy Story 4. Hard to imagine, right? Looking back at that "narrowest" he made this observation: “*Two more inches and there would be no Pixar*”.

It's the two-inch events that change the trajectory of our lives, right? **A two-inch fact, a two-inch domino, is the same thing.** Life revolves around a coin. It wasn't just Pixar movies that would have lost out. Catmull notes with great satisfaction how many Pixar employees have met and married and had what he calls Pixar children. “All those Pixar couples.”

During the tenth century B.C. the Israelites were in conflict with their archenemies, the Philistines. It's shocking, I know! The lawsuit seemed endless, but there were some moments of peace in the script. King Saul should have been the one to challenge Goliath, but he gave that honor to David. He should have been in the front line against the Philistines, but he was on the side.

Now let me change the script. Saul's son, Jonathan, was as different from his father as it could be. It's hard to believe it came from those genes. The grenade fell far from the tree. Saul took a defensive role, while Jonathan took the offensive. Saul played not to lose, but Jonathan played to win. Saul let fear dictate his decisions, but Jonathan moved by faith. Jonathan's mentality is revealed in one of my favorite verses:

Maybe the Lord will help us. 5

Most people operate under the opposite mentality: maybe the Lord won't help us. They play it safe, because they let fear tell them what to do. More specifically, the fear of failure. They are content to live under the shade of a pomegranate on the outskirts of Gibeah. Can I give you an exhortation? Stop living as if the purpose of your life was to arrive safely at death!...”

Jonathan had a penchant for action, which is an integral part of cutting the rope. It is refusing to sit or quit. Why? Because there is a sin of silence: not saying what must be said. There is a sin of tolerance: not doing what has to be done. But Jonathan scaled that rock and fought with the Philistines.

There is a sin of presumption: *get ahead of God*. There is also a sin of procrastination: *go after god*. If you struggle with procrastination, it will be difficult to tie the umbilical cord. The same is true about perfectionism. Why? Because there is always room for improvement. At a certain point, you need to climb the mountain like Jonathan. If I hadn't put my 35th birthday as my submission date, I would still be working on my first book.

What ideas do you need to get started?

What are you waiting for?"

“HOW DO I MAKE IT A HABIT?

Give yourself a start date!

The challenge on the 18th was to do it little by little. Let me date stamp this challenge: **start now!** **If you have to create or break a habit, you have to set a start date and an end date.** How do you do it? Reverse engineer the number of pounds you want to lose, the number of pages you want to write, or the number of miles you want to run. You can't wish on a star. You have to adjust the clock, like in a quick game of chess.

Remember the concept of compromise devices? We may not think that way, **but one of the most common compromise devices is called an "alarm clock."** What time do you set the alarm? And more importantly, for what? To be honest, a lot of people get up at the last possible second.

You can make only some transcendent decisions. You will spend the rest of your life managing those decisions. I do not recommend a grand gesture every other day. They are rare, but it is the two-inch dominoes that determine our fate. There are days when what hasn't happened in decades happens.

Sometimes you have to break a bad habit completely. It's enough!"

Excerpt From

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