

Things I'm learning the hard way:

1) **God is good.**

2) **People are People. (2 Tim. 4:2)**

- Depravity is defined in the classroom and experienced in the pasture.
- Hypothetical situations are appropriately named.
- Knowing what to say < knowing how to say it  
    You won't be "right" if you're not gentle (2 Tim. 2:24; albeit context is unbelievers)  
    **"How we handle relationships tells a lot about our potential for leadership."** Oswald Sanders
- If you've ever managed people, you're ahead of the game.
- Numbers matter to them, no matter what they say.
- Half of the occurrences of *ekklesia* in the gospels, are in the context of conflict.
- People remember presence more than preaching; do both well. (Philipp. 2:3-4)  
    **"If we avoid small talk, we abandon the very field in which we have been assigned to work."**  
    Eugene Peterson

3) **Personal life** 1 Timothy 4:16

- A wife is a good thing. Proverbs 12:4
- To quote John Hannah:  
    "I've never met a godly servant who didn't read the Bible and have a love for the Word that went beyond academia."  
    **"In the ministry, you're going to have to cling to prayer."**
- Get a buddy outside the Body (vent, confess, accountability, encouragement)
- Exercise
- Keep an encouragement file.

4) **Leadership**

- They're called "elders" for a reason. Gray hairs are great for gray areas—and much of ministry is lived in the gray.
- C. Y. A. (Cover Your Anatomy)
- We are not called to "run the church," but the sheep don't believe that.
- In order to be a *good* pastor, I must be perceived by some as a *bad* pastor.
- The best books on Pastoral Leadership are the Pastoral Epistles.

5) **Doctrine/Theology**

- Remember the goal of our instruction 1 Tim. 1:5
- Proclaim a big God and His gospel every time
- Don't confuse preaching with information dissemination.  
    When you prepare homiletically, seek to answer two questions:  
    a) What's the point? B) So what?
- Systems don't change hearts; the Spirit does. (Theology does not save; Theos does)