Forum: Mr. George Haddad

Title: "Go All-In!"

Student Body President Jonathan Barkei gave a student council update. The funds for the school are "in the green" following the Family Works Together fundraiser. Imperial Academy is offering new merchandise: a lapel pin of the school mascot for the guys and a necklace for the girls.

Mr. Haddad asked for a show of hands to answer four questions: 1) Who has mumbled through singing hymns; 2) done homework only sufficiently enough to turn it in; 3) gone to a Church activity and not gotten involved in the activities; or 4) dropped a skill, instrument or language soon after starting. All of these have something in common: half-heartedness. While you won't get in trouble for those things specifically, the *attitude* will get you in trouble.

We live in a halfway world. It's rarely all-in, and when it is, it's for the wrong reasons. We must combat this halfway world. There is a modern term, "mid," that means average or lame. Half-heartedness is also lame; it's the bare minimum, and it's a terrible state to be in.

SPS: We are going to talk about a teenager who became a king whose life is full of doing things with all his MIGHT.

This king made mistakes, but when he learned the right way, he went *all-in* on doing it that way. When we know something is right, we need to have the same attitude.

Acts 13:22 – *And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king: to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will*.

Going all-in will help combat this halfway world and its mediocrity. It will help us be above average. When you think of royalty, you don't think of average. Royals have higher standards in taste and culture. Are we average royals like some of the world's royals, or are we all-in teenagers like David? Are we lame, or are we exceptional?

David went all-in moving the ark, but the execution was not done properly the first time, and Uzzah died because of it. Having the right foundation is important. Half-heartedness is an ungodly trait, but so is going all-in on the WRONG things.

2 Samuel 6:14 – *And Davind danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod*.

Some people may think that going all-in is too much. We naturally react this way because those people tend to be successful, and we are pricked by it. Instead, we prefer everyone else to lower their standards, so we are all equal.

Mr. Haddad referenced a 2008 *True Education* article Mr. Gerald Flurry wrote that talked about how David didn't only keep *some* of the commandments. He strove to obey God whole-heartedly. We should always have this mindset, even in the little things like singing hymns, our prayer or receiving correction. You have to GROW into being all-in. IF YOU WANT AN AVERAGE LIFE, BE AVERAGE. IF YOU WANT AN EXCEPTIONAL LIFE, GO ALL-IN.

David's wife, Michal, was unhappy with how he went all-in, and she criticized him openly. She thought he was going too all-in because she failed to see God behind the event. David was setting an example for the nation, and she despised it!

2 Samuel 6:16 – *And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked though a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart*.

David wasn't going all-in for any man. He was doing it for God, and he was willing to do it again. Are we like King David, going all-in on everything? Or are we like Michal, judging others for being "too" all-in?

At IA, do we criticize the school's events, the school's uniform or the teachers when they make mistakes? Are we too afraid to be eager in class? If everyone has the mindset of David, you don't have to worry about the Michals. *Everyone* will go all-in and show eagerness.

"Do we see God behind the activities of His Work? Are we enthusiastically supportive, or do we harbor skepticism; focus on mistakes and details that we didn't feel were quite right?"

School is your job currently. Go all-in with it. When you get older and other responsibilities kick in, it gets harder to be a student. Go all-in even on your least favorite subjects. You are learning the principles of education. If you learn *how to learn* now, it's easier to learn when you're older.

David probably didn't like being hunted by Saul after he was anointed king, but he still persisted and went all-in. We can do the same with the Goliaths in our education.

Some of the IA student body is currently in Jerusalem literally dancing for the Lord like King David did. They couldn't have foreseen that when the Irish Dance program started. You

don't always know where going all-in will lead you, but it will trump every obstacle you face. Mr. Hilliker said, "Great things happen when you simply let God direct your life and go all-in with God."

Ecclesiastes 9:10 – *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest*.

If you are struggling with something, think about whether or not you have been halfhearted. Don't be like Michal. Be like David and have the spirit of going all-in.