



Recognizing our own potential is perhaps one of the hardest things for us to do, but when someone else sees it and settles for nothing short of excellence, then we can soar toward our dream and beyond what we thought possible.

Remember those times when an instructor handed back a paper to be re-written, yet again? Or when a coach pushed you to run a little faster, to throw a little farther? Or when you came from an eight hour work day into a three hour night class and the instructor required you to stay alert and participate? At those times, we were challenged to live up to our potential. That is how justice works in our lives. Justice is recognizing the value of human beings, of human potential. Justice is what calls us to be constantly reaching higher, always striving beyond what we think are our limits.

But going the extra mile isn't enough when you're running a marathon. You must persevere to the finish even when it seems a long way off. But we never, make the journey alone. There are many people who coach us along the way, who help us, challenge us, and believe that we will indeed finish the journey.

Today, this leg of the race is over for the graduates. The faculty and staff of Lewis University, our families, and our friends have been there every step of the way. Those who walked with us through these years of learning and growth have shown us the fidelity we needed to see to keep going.

When I think of the Mission Value of Fidelity, I am always reminded of the prayer Footprints in the Sand, a story of a man who dreams he is walking along a beach with his God, while across the sky, scenes from his life flash. Most of the time, the man and his God leave behind two sets of footprints. But he notices that during the most troubled times of his life, there is only one set of footprints. He questions his God, who replies, "It was during the most difficult times that I carried you." I think that all of the graduates can remember times when they were carried by friends, family or their God.

Faith comes in many forms. It is present in loving people who have faith in us to accomplish our dreams. It is present in ourselves when we are confident enough to

