

get to know us
NEWCOMERS

SUNDAY
OCT.
15
12:30PM

WELCOME

RSVP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE @ THE INFO KIOSK

the
JESUS
MANIFESTO

Permeating Influence

Jeremy Peters ~ October 15, 2017

False Narrative:

The Church should remain as a distinct sub-culture, separate from the culture as a whole.

Matthew 5:11-16 NLT

11 "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. 12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Jesus' Narrative:

The Church should have permeating influence throughout the world.

Salt Your presence on the earth will preserve the culture from rotting.

Light Your presence in the world will bring illumination to what God is like (unconditional love, grace, forgiveness).

Implications

Spiritual Practice: Margin

The Margins on the pages of a book help to make the words more readable. It is the space around the edges that allow the words to have the space necessary for them to be taken in without overwhelming the reader.

In many of our lives we try to fill the entire page, often saying we need more hours in the day to accomplish all the tasks that are requiring our attention. In doing so there is little to no room for error or things to not run according to plan. As we all know, there will be those things that do not go according to plan and so we induce stress and strain into our lives. Stress is in fact detrimental not only to our mental well-being but also our physical well-being. The life without margin not only takes an emotional toll as we try to squeeze in more than we were created to carry. It also takes a physical toll on us as we try to function beyond our capacity and in doing so, run our tank on empty.

Richard Swenson, M.D. describes margin like this:

“Margin is something held in reserve for contingencies or unanticipated situations. Margin is the gap between rest and exhaustion, the space between breathing freely and suffocating.”

If we are going to be salt and light in the places where we live, learn, work and play (Matthew 5:13-16), it begins with creating some margin in our lives to allow us the space to breathe – to connect both with God and with others.

Margin gives space for God to speak because his voice is not lost in the rush and busyness of a life without margin. To experience that requires that we evaluate where we spend our time. It includes the difficult task of saying “no”. It forces us to choose between good things and the best things.

This week take some time to look at your schedule and ask where the margins are for you. Are there things you need to say no to, so that you can create margin? Ask God to show you what good things are taking time and attention away from the best things that He has for you.

Adapted from James Bryan Smith, “The Good and Beautiful God.” Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2009.