

Margin - Week 3

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023



Summary - "Making room for what matters most."

We began this series by examining our relationship with the LORD and making it a priority. This week we are looking at how our relationship with the LORD impacts our relationships with each other and even with ourselves. Are we creating margin for our relationship with the LORD and with others, or are we caught up in the pursuit of busyness. It is evident in this week's passage, and throughout all of scripture, that God is a God of relationship.

Scripture - Matthew 22:34-40 (see also Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

Here we find the great commandments, to love the LORD your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. This incredible summary of the entire Jewish law by Jesus should cause us to look at three key relationships in our lives:

- Our relationship with the LORD. Are we loving with our whole heart; every part of being?
- Our view of ourselves based upon our relationship with the LORD. Are we validated, do we find our worth and value in Him, or are we looking for that from the world? If we only better understood the cost, we would also better understand our worth.
- Our relationship with others. Do we truly love others and are we willing to show that in how we pursue them, care for them, sacrifice for them, and give of our time for them?

As you study this week begin wrestling with what you may need to adjust in your life in order to create margin for the relationships that matter most.

For further study you can also dive into Matthew 11:28-30; John 15:1-17

Key Terms

Strong's Definition: Heart

Heart: *kardia* (kar-dee'-ah) - denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life

a. the vigour and sense of physical life

b. the centre and seat of spiritual life

i. the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavours

ii. of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence

iii. of the will and character

iv. of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

c. of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate

Key Thoughts

The reality is we wear busyness as a badge, as if it is equal to holiness. Busyness does not mean you are a faithful or fruitful Christian. It only means you are busy, just like everyone else. And like everyone else, your joy, your heart, and your soul are in danger. DeYoung

What if we stopped using the word busy (hectic, chaotic) as the grading scale for success but instead used the word relationship?

Our pursuit of progress keeps telling us to work and search for treasures hidden in bank vaults and investments, while all the time, God has the treasure buried in Him and the heart of our neighbor.

Love is the currency of a relational rich life. To love our neighbor, we must be available to our neighbor. To love our neighbor, we must get less done but do the right things. To love our neighbor, we must examine the relationships closest to us.

We must have some room to breathe. We need freedom to think and permission to heal. Our relationships are being starved to death by velocity. No one has the time to listen, let alone love. Our children lay wounded on the ground, run over by our high-speed good intentions. Is God now pro-exhaustion?

"We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will constantly be crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions. This is a part of the discipline of humility; we must quit assuming our schedule is our own to manage, but allow it to be arranged by God." Bonhoffer

Reflect & Respond

This week ask yourself, "God, what do you want me to do with the time you give me today?"

This week ask yourself, "God, who in my life needs to be listened to, cared for, or loved on? What relationship(s) in my life need margin?"

How is your relationship with the Lord? Are you abiding in Him? Are you taking root in Him and being made whole through this relationship? If so then what fruit is being produced through it in you and in the lives of those you are in relationship with?

What is one thing you must say yes to this week to fulfill your priorities as a follower of Jesus, a spouse, a parent, a friend, a neighbor, etc.?

What are three things you need to say no to this week to fulfill your priorities as a follower of Jesus, a spouse, a parent, a friend, a neighbor, etc.?

