

The Art of NEIGHBOURING

The Time Barrier

Greg Musselman – April 17, 2016

How are you doing with your block map? Have you learned any new pieces of information since last week?



Big Question

How am I going to have time for one more relationship? Let alone 8 new relationships with my neighboring houses?

Time is the biggest obstacle we need to overcome to be effective neighbors. Are we living at a pace that allows us to be available to those around us?

Development of Neighboring:

Technology is supposed to give us extra time and yet we still just cram more into our days instead of creating margin.

Myths we believe:

1. Someday things will settle down (we just need to get to this, then we will have time for that)
2. More will be enough (with one more purchase, then we will be content)
3. Everybody lives like this (no they don't)

Jesus tells us there is a different way to live...

Luke 10:38-42

- Martha, distracted by the preparations for hosting Jesus, misses out on time with Jesus. She is rushed and misses out on the main thing even though she is doing good things.
- What Martha was doing wasn't bad, but she is being reprimanded for serving Jesus. Jesus is saying we need to say no to good things to center our lives around the main thing.
- Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus; culturally this is not the norm. Culturally Martha is doing what is appropriate by being in the kitchen and serving Jesus. Mary is going against the culture and focusing on the main thing.
- Sometimes we need to go against the cultural norms by creating space for relationships with our neighbors.

"Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. The reason why hurrying is so dangerous is because love and hurry are not all compatible... because love always takes time, and time is the one thing hurried people don't have."

"The Life You've Always Wanted" ~ John Ortberg

We need to practice the art of elimination.

- Michelangelo when given a block to create his statue of David said that he just removed everything that wasn't a masterpiece.
- Jesus had healthy rhythms in His life. People wanted to hear more of Him and yet He knew when to retreat and be still.
- Jesus asked Martha to say no to ministry and serving to sit and be centered around ***Him, the main thing.***

What is God asking of you?

Maybe God is calling you to give up something so you can make room for the main thing?

As you leave today ask these questions: God what is your heart for me?

What is that next step you desire me to take?

What is the main thing you want me to focus on?

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- How are you doing with filling in the Who Is My Neighbour Card? Has there been any developments in your relationships with your neighbours this week?
- Greg asked the question "Are we living at a pace that allows us to be available to those who live around us?" What is your answer to this question in terms of St. Albert society generally? What is your answer personally?
- Greg identified three myths that we believe about how we live:
 - Someday things will settle down,
 - Someday more will be enough,
 - Everyone lives like this.

Which of these myths do you tend to live from?

- John Ortberg wrote that
"Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. The reason why hurrying is so dangerous is because love and hurry are not all compatible... because love always takes time, and time is the one thing hurried people don't have."
Do you agree? Do you have a sense of how Jesus might be inviting you to eliminate hurry from your life?
- Read the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Have there been times in your life when it has felt as though you have been more like Mary? What was it like? Have there been times when you have been more like Martha? What was it like?
- Michaelangelo described the process of removing everything that wasn't a masterpiece. Is there anything you sense that Jesus is asking you to remove or reduce from your life?
- The great commandment links making a priority of our relationship with God and our relationship with others and ourselves. How could you re-organize your time in order for this to be more effective in your life?