

# CBC Sunday Morning

## // CONNECTION

- What I love about the journey you all have been on is just how much you learn about yourself along the way - it's much like a hero's journey
- As I was thinking about a hero's journey I began to think about a critical truth that isn't addressed as much. But no true hero, journeys alone.
  
- About 2 years ago I moved to live at an actual movie so that I could learn more about these fascinating storytellers. Sitting with one, he began to ask me what leads me to do what I do - especially in cancel culture!
- I told him for two reasons: 1. Life is better together - the quality of life is directly impacted by the quality of people you choose to live it with - so I need to learn how to love people well...beyond my own limitations. 2. I believe in the real life story that's happening all around us that the more people wake up to the more colorful and wondrous the world becomes.
- We all know, most things in life are better done together. We make more progress when we work well together.
- If you think I'm lying - try to put an Ikea bed together by yourself and see how far your lil college degree takes you! I lost the whole left side of my be trying to hold those cork pins up and balance the headboard! If you play sports, you have teammates. If you stand in the ring alone, you have a corner of trainers reminding you what you practiced. If you work in healthcare, you need your staff. If you ride a bike, you shoes that click on a stationary bike that costs more than some people's salary, with a video instructor reminding you that you can KEEP GOING, we're all in this together!
- We make more progress when we work well together.
- Keywords: 'work well'. Obviously we can turn on the news, examine politics, and see what something looks like when people struggle to work well together, but that's not what we're talking about today. We're taking a moment to remember a truth that we should best remind ourselves of every day:
- We need one another.
- It's when we work together, that we go further and faster. When we go it alone, we might make some progress, but it goes much slower and often times, we regress and don't realize it until it's too late.

## TRANSITION:

- But that's a motivational message, no, today I want us to look at this from a spiritual perspective. How do WE grow spiritually? The beauty and wonder of this question lies in the fact that everything is spiritual, or at least has a spiritual component.
- So really ask yourself this question again:
- How do we make spiritual progress?

## // TENSION

Because it's easier said than done! And here's why:

- It's necessary for us to focus on our own "personal relationship with Jesus,"
- In fact we see Jesus speak about it in Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - **John 14:6 NIV**
- But Jesus didn't seem to think the church was the epicenter of the story – he was the epicenter. Until this point, the Temple was the epicenter of the religious experience. Jesus claimed to be the way, not the temple, not the priest, not the ark, not the Holy of Holies. They killed him for saying this stuff (as he predicted they would), but then he rose from the grave, dominated death, and proved his point. And after proving this point he makes a wonderful declaration that we all hold onto each and every day.
- "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - **Matthew 28:20b NIV**
- and THIS is why we know that our 'personal relationship with Jesus' is absolutely a necessary part of our journey, but here's another important truth, if we aren't careful, we can end up making a lot of spiritual progress on our own.
- Think about it: if Jesus is the way to God, and Jesus is with us always, then what's the deal with all the churches on every block?
- Many people are beginning to realized, wait... I can read my Bible on my own. I can listen to messages online. I can even worship through music on my own. Heck, I can even do all of this in my car on the way to get some Costco gas! I think I'm down with the church of the commute!

## TRANSITION:

- But this isn't a *new* reality, despite what you may read in the current day reports. In fact, how long do you think it took for the first Christians to realize this same truth?

## // TRUTH

- Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a over the house of God... - **Hebrews 10:19-21 NIV**
- Yo. So crazy to hear this in the first century! "Confidence!" The High Priest didn't even enter the Holy of Holies with confidence. Have you seen *Raiders of the Lost Ark*?
- Point: We don't need an earthly Priest to bring a blood sacrifice into the Most Holy Place any longer, because the Great High Priest, Jesus, sacrificed his own blood for our inequities, and that tore the curtain separating you and me from the Most High Place. His body was torn so God could tear down that curtain of separation. And now, we don't have to be timid or afraid to approach God.
- let us to God with a sincere heart and with the that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies
- with pure water. **Hebrews 10:22 NIV**
- This is the author's poetic way of comparing our current standing with God without the need for an official priest, ark, temple, holy place...
- Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **Hebrews 10:23 NIV**
- This is all still very, very personal. Jesus loves you personally. He died for you personally. Your relationship with God through Jesus is deeply personal. or partially churchd or questioning church, But the author also realizes that there is a difference between a faith
- that is personal and a faith that is private. or partially churchd or questioning church,
- And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds -**Hebrews 10:24 NIV**
- And let us consider how we may on toward love and, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but one another— and all the more as you see the Day approaching. -**Hebrews 24-25**

- See, we all love the part where God gives us a bunch of free stuff, but Paul says, it doesn't stop there! **Don't let the goodness stop at you, when it's meant to move through.**
- I can't spur myself on! I see the value in being challenged towards all I'm meant to be in this story, while also being encouraged - we 'speak life' over one another.
- This is why Paul is so specific as to say: For all the good done for each and every one of us, there is still good to be done by each and every one of us - not because we're convicted, but because we're compelled.
- There's a phrase he uses twice in the passage that the more I look at, the more beautiful it becomes. He used the term one-another twice.
- So maybe the true question we should be asking ourselves is:
  - Am I one-anothering well?
  - "There can be no maturity in the spiritual life, no obedience in following Jesus, no wholeness in the Christian life apart from an immersion in, and embrace of, community. I am not myself by myself. " – Eugene Peterson
- Your greatest breakthroughs won't come from you alone. The greatest you can't be found in you alone. We are made for community.