

Chapter 6

Missioning the Church

Choose one of these points, with its questions, you'd like to be prepared to give your thoughts about at our June meeting:

- On page 112, Nelson talks about an urban congregation “missioning” people, asking them to come forward in the worship service and confirm their “call” to work intentionally and incarnationally in ministry wherever they are.
 - Do you see your days as living your vocation, seeing what you do as something you are called by God to do? If so, how does it impact how you approach what you do everyday? Do you see your days as “being the body of Christ sent into the world to be a witness in word and deed” (page 114). If you do, how does it impact how you approach what you do everyday?

- On page 116, Nelson makes the point that to travel into the borderlands as a traveler, and not a tourist, means one “embeds themselves into the relationships, systems, and organizations of the neighborhoods and networks God as set before them, seeking to be genuine and transparent in all they do.” He then follows with the concept that to do this, we must first be willing to really listen.
 - When you go into the borderlands at work, or in your neighborhoods, or groups of friends, do you really listen? If you do, what general discoveries have you made about your “neighbors” and how they feel and approach their lives?

- On page 125, Nelson points that often we really want to determine “how far we have to go to be a disciple . . . how little has to be done to follow Jesus”, that we want to “work out our discipleship at the minimal standard of disciplines and values while still feeling justified”.
 - Have you had an experience when you didn't apply the test of “the minimal needed” to be a neighbor to someone? Was that experience positive in your life? What did you learn from that experience?

- I'd like to share a quote with you and then ask a question. Here's the quote:

We look for signs from heaven, for earthquakes and thunders of God's power (the fact that we are dejected proves that we do), and we never dream that all the time God is in the commonplace things and people around us. If we will do the duty that lies nearest, we shall see Him. One of the most amazing revelations of God comes when we learn that it is in the commonplace things that the Deity of Jesus Christ is realized.

Oswald Chambers, Scottish minister and
teacher
(1874-1917)

- Here's the question: What does the quote say to you?