

The Sermon - In 10 Sentences Or Less

Surprise the World (Week 8) - A Better Me Requires You:



1. The final chapter of the book has two primary emphases - a) how habits are formed, and b) the necessity of living the BELLS together with several spiritual traveling companions.
2. We spent the bulk of the sermon talking about the latter subject, from three verses within Proverbs 27.
3. The first verse was Prov. 27.17, in which we're told that just like there are no self-sharpening knives, there are also no self-sharpening people.
4. It's impossible to be the best version of ourselves without the necessary honing of others, and what we encounter in one another is how much - or how little - we've let others sharpen us.
5. The second verse was 27.6, in which we're told that the sign of a true blue spiritual friend is that they can tell you what you need to hear, but don't want to, or what you won't even tell yourself.
6. Regarding the BELLS habits, both of those first Proverbs also hold true: we need to be sharpened by one another, as well as those we hope to reach, even when that refinement is hard to hear at first.
7. The last proverbs from chapter 27 is verse 9, in which the joy that comes from heartfelt, soulful discussion is compared to your favorite aroma.
8. So, as we try to live the BELLS together and talk about our experiences, it will produce joy, and that joy will both be contagious and sustain us in the inevitable ups and downs of being on mission with God in the world.
9. This notion of spiritual traveling companions as a necessity, not optional, flies in the face of our culture's flagrant, unquestioned individualism.
10. In sum, as Alan Hirsch puts it, "God's mission for His church is too big for anyone to accomplish alone, and too important even to try."

Group Life

This last chapter in "Surprise the World" emphasizes that community/relationships need to be a spiritual habit, every bit as much as prayer or worship or service. So who will your "iron sharpens iron" people be? Who might they be here at KirkWood?

If you don't have a group or class who might do this for you, and if you're interested in starting or joining one, let Pastor Chris know. If you're intrigued by the smaller, more intimate groups of 3 persons described in chapter 8, and would like to explore starting one here at KW, reach out to Pastor Chris, and if there's enough interest, we'll work on starting some.

Here's a great, short article on the vital importance of community as spiritual habit - [Longing to be Known - James Bryan Smith](#)