

Episode 4: Being the Good News

Sometimes I come across a passage of scripture that I've read many times before, when suddenly, it seems like I am discovering it for the very first time. I think this is partly because some scriptures are taught more often than others, or, to make a certain emphasis, leave out nearby verses. One example is found in Matthew 6 with the familiar reading of "The Lord's Prayer," where the next two verses are frequently overlooked. Here are verses: "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." As connected and important as those verses are to fully understand the Lord's prayer, we rarely consider them. Recently, another familiar passage found in the book of Hebrews struck me in a similar way:

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

These two verses are generally used to encourage believers to regularly meet together or attend church services. But the focus today is on the first verse: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Do you ever do this? Do you ever take time, alone or with friends, considering how to spur one another toward love and good deeds? In these days when the Church seems better known for what it is against than what it is for, this passage is timely. I don't think God wants His people to be simply known for regularly gathering in church buildings. He wants people who find ways to bless others and love them and meet their needs, no matter who they are. If you have Christian friends, this might be a great way to spend time together. Find ways – even small ways – that you can be spurred on to show love and do good deeds...for Jesus' sake.

Whenever we do this, we are living and being the Good News!

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