

Chasing Margin

In Relationships (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Healthy, consistent boundaries lead to relational margin.

Key Scriptures

I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:14 NIV

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God..." Psalms 46:7, 10 NIV

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. John 2:23-25 ESV

We willingly chase after unhealthy relationships that squeeze out margin.

Healthy boundaries are found when you:

1. Relentlessly prioritize your first thing.
"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:36-38 NIV
Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35 NIV

2. Courageously address the hard thing.
Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Matthew 16:23 NIV

3. Turn your back on the destructive thing.
My child, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them! My child, don't go along with them! Stay far away from their paths. Proverbs 1:10, 15 NLT

Start talking.

- How do unhealthy relationships squeeze out our margin?
- In what ways do we willingly sacrifice for unhealthy relationships?
- Why is it easier to be with others for the wrong reasons than to be alone for the right ones?

Start thinking.

- Read Ecclesiastes 1:14. What does he mean by "meaningless"?
- Read Psalms 46:7, 10. Why should it matter that God is "with us" and is, "our fortress"?
- Read John 2:23-25. What is meant by the word, "entrust"? What was it that he "knew" about all men that kept him from entrusting himself to them?
- Read Matthew 22:23-25 and Mark 1:35. What is the most important thing? How did Jesus prioritize his relationship to the Father?
- Read Matthew 16:23. How did Jesus feel about Peter? Was Peter's heart insincere? Why did Jesus respond so strongly?
- Read Proverbs 1:10, 15. How would you restate this in more simple terms?

Start sharing.

- What have been the result of unhealthy relational boundaries in your life?
- Which of the three steps are easiest? And most difficult?

Start doing.

- What tangible step will you take to prioritize Jesus this week?
- What hard conversation needs to happen?
- Is there a destructive thing you need to turn your back on? If so, invite others to pray for wisdom and courage for you.

Closing prayer.

Lord Jesus thank you for loving me. Thank you for teaching and modeling the power and importance of healthy boundaries. Help me to prioritize you more, to courageously lean into hard things, and when necessary, to walk away from destructive people and things. Help me to find and reclaim healthy margin in my relationships.