

WHEN CHURCH STOPS WORKING: PART II notes

Confession:

- We are more captivated by the decline than the way forward
- “my eyes are on the wrong thing”
- How it really is: corporately, we are *unaware*
 - “interrogating the familiar”
 - Allow time for lament, acknowledge **grief**
- Confession “brings back,” wrestling to name what is true
- Reorienting, *recognition*

Humans are oriented toward CRISIS: feeling of urgent tension, “something is off”

- We need to get out of the “negative crisis” mindset
- [underlying basis of crisis: secular v sacred, private v public, immanent v transcendent]
- We’re not telling our stories, which exist to be shared
- The Chinese symbol for “crisis” is “danger” + “opportunity”
- Nouwen: need to embrace the pain of crisis
 - Re: pain: we either hold on too long, or get out too quickly
- Kierkegaard’s father “used religion as a medication” (pg 90)
 - the American “victorious Christian life” vs being a **real** follower, experiencing **real** life, **real** church

God is ALWAYS working to bring healing and hope

- We can only know God by what God reveals/chooses to reveal
 - “Safe? Who said anything about safe? But he’s good.” Aslan
- Find space to exercise **trust**
- Concept of eternity v time: time **cannot** affect eternity
- What are our “watchwords”? how do they focus us?
- [Lullabies: deep truth in the darkness]
- From ARC: moving from “mission statement” to words of resonance: what is God doing here?
- Two movements: 1st: encounter God; 2nd: share and serve

Tell the stories to one another!

- We tend to make a ‘program’ of an idea, and it gets ruined

Can we start something even if we aren’t sure how it will turn out?

- Make room to say “Yes”

****WHO IS CENTERED IN THE STORY? US? OR GOD? ****

Just keep asking “where are you, God? What are you asking?”

LET GO

In all scripture, **where is the gospel message?**

Difference between a mission statement and missional theology = action

Pg 115: delight which turns into service

Deep reminder: confession and storytelling