

Why Matter matters so much to God

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Message Notes

[(6) This week New Hoper Zaak Robichaud sent me an email re: a question I asked for homework last week. The points he makes in his note are a perfect intro to this Sunday's message... READ EMAIL...]

() God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Jesus in MT 28:18-20

Surely this is a God authored truth; "() A subject matter is best learned when it is taught... lived... & embodied."

LONG PAUSE...You've experienced that truth before I'm sure... **"You have to know it to teach it... and as you teach it, you know it more!"... PAUSE...**

"Witnessing to the truth embeds that truth into you."

So when Jesus calls you to **"() train everyone" & "instruct them in the practice"** < what he's really saying, Know your stuff... know it well... make it YOU... embody this message... live, eat and breathe my truth... live eat and breathe ME... **LONG PAUSE...**

In the ancient Hebrew mindset of Jesus' day, **"to know something was to live it"...** If you weren't **living the truth you said you knew**, then you didn't really know it!... **PAUSE...** because if you knew it, everyone would be able to see it... **LONG PAUSE...**

(SLOW) What was true would be SEEN IN YOU...

I think craftsmanship reinforces this same truth... **PAUSE...** And teaches us about the NB connection between *cognitively known truth & acted out truth*

In fact, I think **doing things with your hands** is the best teacher of this ancient Hebrew truth re; knowing/doing... **(SLOW) "() Because consequence is intimately and immediately tied to thought/idea!"**

() Michaelangelo envisioned David's hand.. his hammer hit the chisel... & a **physical chunk** of marble flew away

() You play piano, or guitar, or a wind instrument... & knowing the next note, you move your finger... and the sound changes... & a new **lived out truth fills your ears...**

() Your turning a piece of aluminum on a lathe at the shop... you bring the bit into contact with the spinning metal... thinly coiled metal starts pouring off the piece... **And a shape is changed...**

PAUSE... as soon as **you think it, it's done...**

() And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." Gen 1:3

THE master craftsman, **thought it, said it, and it was done...** a new material reality resulted...

"() Work is... simply an activity which consciously includes regard for consequences as part of itself" 287/88 Sennett

Your work... whatever you craft... whatever you do with your hands... **parenting... typing... colouring... shaping... remaking...** is an affirmation of how God

**made his truth to be... PAUSE... EMBODIED...
EFFECTING MATERIAL CHANGE IN THE WORLD...
bringing material goodness to his creation...**

() So that his kingdom may come... on earth as it is in heaven... **(VERSE UP HERE)**

"() You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving." The Apostle Paul in Colossians 2:7 The Message

School's out... **PAUSE...** The master, through whom all things were made... who now holds all things together... and in now making new all things... That master calls you to **get on with it...**

To live... to really live what you say you know!...

These last few days... they're not just about good cheer... or family... or gift giving... **PAUSE... they're about celebrating and living all those things in the context of the truth that God is with us!**

We thankfully live with all of our Christmas traditions knowing that they're **"() constructed upon him..."**

The calling is that **all that you do** be in response to that fact... **God is here... let your hands, life, all of your being live accordingly... LONG PAUSE...**

(SLOW) so that when **people see your life** > they'll see the master... through the **superb craft with which you live your human life... PAUSE...**

() "I'm praying not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me, because of **them** and **their witness** about me. The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind— Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, so they might be one

heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The same glory you gave me, I gave them, So they'll be as unified and together as we are— I in them and you in me. Then they'll be mature in this oneness, and **give the godless world evidence that you've sent me** and loved them in the same way you've loved me." John 17:20-23

Jesus' prayer is that the **life you craft** gives evidence to who he is... **PAUSE...**

That **the life you craft** (your actions) are so intimately and intrinsically birthed from who you know (Him), that people will see God/Jesus through you!...

As easily as they'd recognize a **Michaelangelo, Picasso** or a **Bach...** they'd look at you and see him!

I think heaven (that new/renewed earth God has planned for us) **will be like that in a perfect way!...**

We'll all know God perfectly & personally... () **He'll move into the neighbourhood and be our God forever** But maybe we'll also **know him through others...** **Each of us acting in ways that perfectly reflect his heart!... PAUSE...**

And **maybe it will be even more than that...** we'll know him **directly...** and we'll know him **through others...** but "**maybe we'll also know him through all the good material things we'll continue to craft for eternity!**"... through our eternal crafting of life, relationships, and God/human culture...

Perhaps *that vision* is what it will take to **fully root, embody & give witness to** the love & power of God?

() **Why did God make and craft all of this?** Because it takes that much material to **embody and give full**

expression to his power & majesty, his glory & grace His incomprehensibly high and wide and deep and long love... LONG PAUSE...

() Read Eph 3:14-21... HEATHER PRAY

(From Zaak Robichaud, a high school teacher)

Hey John,

In the homework you sent out you asked us to "Think about **the most wonderful thing you've ever been taught**. How was it taught to you?"

I couldn't think of any one thing that was the *most wonderful*, but up there would be learning to play the guitar and brass instruments, learning history, learning how to read, learning calculus, learning (and still learning) how to take photos...

In all of these I've learned the most **by teaching them to others**. In my intro to education course in university, the prof outlined the basic ways we learn:

reading - 50-70%
sensing - 70-80%
doing - 80-90%
teaching - 90-100%

I wonder if Christ *knew his creatures more* by both becoming one Himself and then **teaching others** how to be restored/restoring. He commands his disciples to go out and be humble masters themselves, to make

disciples and therefore know God's kingdom even more than by beholding, more than by practicing, but the most by instructing - having to seek clarity and definition before trying to express it/ demonstrate it.

I'm teaching calculus for the first time this year and even though I understood it enough in univ. to get good grades, I feel like I'm only now making all the connections, grasping the nuances, and truly seeing its beauty. I've taught language (English and Spanish) in the past and I feel that's how I really began to understand grammar. In teaching guitar and band, I learned why we use certain methods to play the instruments by correcting my students. I haven't had a chance to teach history, but I sit in on some social studies classes and I can see how the teacher is bombarded with clarifying questions that would force her to evaluate what she says and how she interprets events for her students.

Anyway, you made me think. Thanks!
Zaak

Ephesians 3

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.