

[margins]

Part 1: Clutter

Grant Fishbook, Teaching Pastor
October 11 & 12, 2014

The spiritual goal for this series:

Forever change my approach to life.

Margin is the space between life and losing it.

God is continuously calling his followers into the margin...

The Margin: Sabbath

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. – Exodus 20:8-11

The Enemy: Hurry sickness

The Margin: Tithe

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. – Malachi 8:10

The Enemy: Fear and Cluelessness

The Margin: Compassion

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

– Deuteronomy 24:19

The Enemy: Selfishness

The Margin: Rest

The Enemy: Progress (*not work, because work is biblical*)

One hand full of rest is better than two fists full of labor and striving after wind. – Ecclesiastes 4:6 (*NASB*)

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

– Matthew 11:28-30 (*The Message*)

**There is a fear that comes with living without margin:
the fear that I am falling further and further behind.**

**The only answer to that fear is the faith that
God will fill in the gaps with His provision.**

Margin Thought to Ponder based on Psalm 23:
The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

God says that he will lead me beside still quiet waters.

But I have to decide whether I will drink, sit and watch, rest or play.

Small Group Questions

- 1) On a scale of 1-10 with one being “living life and loving it” and 10 being “losing it any minute,” where is your stress level right now?
- 2) How do you know when you are living without margins?
- 3) Which of the four basic areas of margin is the biggest struggle for you? Why do you struggle to believe that God can fill in the gap in that area?
- 4) Read all of the scriptures again, out loud, slowly (with some margin). Take a breath in between. What is God whispering to you right now?
- 5) What is your biggest fear about living with margin?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

**OUR
MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.