

WISDOMSHOUSE



Wisdom's House Briefmail: Elijah & Wisdom 5/7 - Holiday M.E.A.T. and being 'Overextended.'

The leader shouts, "You are what you eat . . ."

The students reply, "So what's your M.E.A.T.?"

"Where do you spend your Money. Energy. Affection. & Time?"

After Thanksgiving we might think 'Overextended' is referring to our stomachs, but I'm hoping to simply catch your attention. This Briefmail is not about turkey, ham, goose, or seasonal spending habits; it's not even for those who are in gross debt. It is for all Christians who feel safe in their investment portfolio: their money, life-energy, thoughts, emotions, and desires, and the big one - their time. It is for well-meaning church goers doing their best with what they've been given, but, like the people in Elijah's day, find themselves lost under the influence of a culture in delusion.

I am proposing that we 'modern day Christians' recalibrate how we spend our lives; at epic proportions!

Being in debt, or overextended, is all a matter of perspective. Throughout history, many have been led to believe that they were building on solid ground when they only later found out that they were not. Whether financial markets crashed, or a loved one dies, we all come to a moment where we find out what we've invested. It is then that our return is settled, no chance to go back and reinvest. Wisdom and folly are usually associated with these moments, one way or another; (wisdom - building on the Rock or having reserves of oil v. folly - building on the sand or having no oil - Matt 7 & 25). In our modern church culture, we can't help but assume that we live a normal Christian life. I plead the case that, in reality, we are overextended; being invested in ways that will not yield the returns we desire. Yet, in the din of temporal noise, the voices of reason are extraordinarily quiet and difficult to hear. This absence of clarity keeps us investing in 'good', not knowing that 'good is the enemy of best'. There is another way, but we must cry out for powerful revelation - a Godly sorrow unto repentance shown by fruit that will remain in this age and the next.

An example of our cultures perspective: "Spiritual Emphasis Week!" in a Christian school. Let those words sink in. 'Christian', meaning follower of Jesus or convert, adherent, to His way of life must be undefined for this generation before it can be redefined. At a minimum the idea that Jesus called us to a 'week' of emphasis reveals our missed investment opportunities, but might better be called an example of gross negligence. We are making disciples, but they are next generation-Christians who believe 'normal' means 'sub-culture-within-the-culture' we live in. Jesus - the Faithful Witness, the First Born among the dead, and the Ruler of the Kings of the earth, was very aware that His message was calling "out of" the culture into a very counter-culture. But we are providing investment portfolios for our children (i.e. how to spend their money, life-energy, thoughts, emotions, and desires, and the big one - their time) that will leave them asking, "Who led me to believe that Jesus love wasn't worth ALL of my life?" We are misleading the next generation, and in this hour our folly and negligence becomes darker and more ominous . . . even slavery.

So what's your M.E.A.T? Where do you spend your Money, Energy, Affection, and Time? In a school where Wisdom's Tools are imparted we hear the kids proclaim, "Where your treasure is, there your heart also will be. What you look at you will soon long to see, and eventually be." This is a Tool in Wisdom's Tool Box, one of the many ways that we are joining with Wisdom and Crying Out for the awakening of the Church to her condition (turning the disobedient to 'the wisdom of the righteous') and the equipping of the next generation so that we all might build the Family of God in such a way that our investment will remain, His Salvation be responded to appropriately, and God's Kingdom revealed through a counter-cultural way of life.

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