

MARGIN—1 Making Space for the Things that Matter Most Recap

MARGIN: THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE BEYOND WHAT IS NECESSARY.

- How many things do you **do** that if you were really honest with yourself you would say are not really necessary?
- How many things do you **have** that if you were really honest with yourself you would say are not really necessary?

Storage Wars. The ultimate in modern craziness. Working harder & longer to pay for things in storage that are no longer used or necessary.

Doctor Richard Swenson describes margin like this:

“Margin is the **space** between our **load** and our **limits**. It is the amount allowed beyond that which is needed. It is something held in **reserve** for contingencies or unanticipated situations. Margin is the **gap** between **rest** and **exhaustion**, the **space** between breathing freely and suffocating.”

What does having Margin look like?

1. **Time Margin.** Time to get to a meeting or work early
2. **Money Margin.** Having money left over to invest.
3. **Sin Margin.** Buffers in place that protect you from experiences, places or people that could cause you to sin, to stumble.
4. **Emotional Margin.** Emotional capacity so you don't fly of the handle, slow to anger.
5. **Relational Margin.** You have time to value important relationships. Date nights
6. **Mental Margin.** Time and space for Reflection and thought
7. **Spiritual Margin.** Time basking in the Presence of God. Meditating on the word and prayer.

Life-When its all boiled down, comes to this-**Time in the margin is the best part.**
None ever died and said “i wish i spent more time at work!”

Luke 10:38-42 *As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was **distracted** by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "**Martha, Martha,**" the Lord answered, "**you are worried and upset about many things,** 42 but only **one thing** is needed. Mary has **chosen what is better**, and it **will not be taken away** from her."*



2016 MESSAGE

1-Distraction takes us away from the things that matter most.

- Something that seems **Good** can **distract** you from what is better or **best**.
- Busyness can seem good but can distract us from what is best.
- Distraction is removal of focus. Mary was focused on what matters most.

2-Good things can take you away from the right things.

Being worried & upset take us away from what matters most.

- **When we get worried we get busy.** Active worrier.

When we are busy we don't have to think about our problems. They might just all go away while I'm so flat out. But when we stop we are confronted with the issues.

- The issues then rob us of our relaxing time. We have no margin left

Three providers of margin from James, Jesus brother.

James 5:13

1. Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. **Prayer = MARGIN**
2. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. **Praise = MARGIN**
3. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you. **People = MARGIN.** Relationships. Connect Groups. Church

Margin is creating the space to unload.

- Psalm 55:22 **Cast your cares on the Lord** and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.
- 1 Peter 5:7 **Cast all your anxiety on him** because he cares for you.

We fill our lives with **so** much and deplete our margin that when we come to **cast our cares** we don't know **where** to cast them and we don't know **who** to cast them to.

JESUS SAID "Only one thing is needed." Margin time.

If you choose it, it will never be taken away.

3. Its a choice. "Mary Choose" so did Martha. One chosen better

WHEN YOUR MARGIN DECREASES -YOUR STRESS INCREASES.

Getting to school in the morning.

- **Financial margin decrease-Stress increase.**

As margin decreases- **YOUR RELATIONAL INTIMACY DECREASES.**

Bill Hybels book "To busy to pray"



2016 MESSAGE

Margin is a faith pursuit. It takes faith to put God first.

To seek God first and believe that **ALL** these things **will** be added"

What are you pursuing? Money, Popularity, Looks, Relationships

Whatever you pursue that is not focused on putting Jesus first, is a distraction and it will ultimately not fulfil you and will take you away from seeking God first.

TIME TO MEET JESUS IN THE MARGIN

Matthew 11:28-29 *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take **my yoke** upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Yoke. zygós – a yoke; a wooden bar placed over the neck of a pair of animals so they can pull together; (figuratively) what unites (joins) **two people** to move (work) together as one.

The **Holy Spirit** falls upon us like a yoke. He's a person, He wants to join with us to work together as one.

Take-Its a choice to take it. To put it on.

Learn from me-The reason we get in such a mess is because we are stubborn and don't want to learn or we are prideful and don't want to admit we need help from God.

Shiree and lost keys. 5 simple words that fix everything. "Have you prayed about it?"

Listen to the Holy Spirit. Its Him, a person. Listen to His character-
"I am gentle and humble in heart" He lives in the margin

Here's a promise from JESUS- "And you will find rest for your souls." This is deep

5 minutes.

Be still, and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10

- When you put God first, nothing will be taken away from you