



Collusion or Collision
Message to the Marginal
From sermon 8.1.21

Read *1 Kings 18:21*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Throughout time, God has challenged His people to be fully committed. In His earthly ministry, Jesus did the same. There is no middle ground. God never allows for "one foot in and one foot out". It's all or nothing. As the Church prepares for its inevitable collision with the world, it must deal with marginalism and cheap, easy believe-ism.

1. Define Marginalism as it relates to Christianity, church, and faith. It's the false belief and life that you can have the best of both worlds...Christ and culture. Marginalism takes too high a view of self and salvation security, habitually puts off commitment to a later time, holds to distorted priorities, and offers God the leftovers, after world and self.

2. How did/does Jesus view marginal Christianity? He didn't allow for it. It's actually an impossible title or condition...you're either marginal (probably still lost) or committed (fully in and always separating from the world). The marginals in Revelation made Him sick to His stomach.

3. Read *Luke 9:23*. Describe an "extreme faith". One that is set on shunning the world, walking away from old life pitfalls, and puts Christ and mission first. Example Paul, Daniel, Noah, Job.
What other entities in the world are already at the extreme level? The devil and his kingdom. The radical left. The liberal church. Islam, social agenda lobbyists, etc...

[Note: we don't join them in sin, anger, violence, or cancel culture. Ours are spiritual battles and respectful arguments based on the Scripture. See also *2 Corinthians 10:3-5* & *Ephesians 6:12*]

4. What are the dangers of cheap faith? False sense of security. Likely cave in the collision. Poor representation of Jesus. Infects the church. demands easy, palatable preaching.
See *Matthew 7:26-27* and share how it applies here. These are people hearing the word, not outsiders. They always hear, but don't "do". When the collision comes (wind and waves) they will crash.

5. Read *Luke 9:59-62*. Discuss the tendency to push off "going all in" until a later or better time. One segment of life always bleeds over into the next. At a human level, we'll never arrive = we'll never have enough time, enough money, enough energy, or enough knowledge. The devil will make sure of it.

6. Serving self or the world is an insatiable god. Neither has the promise or power to renew our expended strength. Wholeheartedly serving God through Christ does, however. Read and discuss *Isaiah 40:28-31*

7. From Above: One identifying mark of the marginal is giving God the leftovers. What are some ways we offer God the scraps in our life? Various answers. Too broke to give generously. I've overextended on me. Debt. Too much stuff, too much house, too much car. Too many "yes's" to everyone else leads to too many "no's" to God. Too tired to go to church after my busy weekend. Plenty of time for my hobbies and recreation and down time (Tv, tablet, phone), but little for prayer, private worship, Bible reading and studying.