

The Kingdom of God Is Not For Spectators

I recently read something on the internet that impacted me. A pastor had gone to see a family that had been missing from church for some time. The father in the family said that they weren't coming back to such a cold church. They had missed four Sundays and no one had noticed, at least not enough to call and see about them.

Now this happens all the time. As pastor of Emmanuel, I have experienced this too, just last year in fact. And it speaks to a problem we have in not caring enough about others God has brought into our lives.

But there is another side to this I had never thought of. Look at how this pastor deals with these situations. He confronted the father with

"What kind of person are you, that you could be gone for four weeks and the no one in the church could tell? What work suffered because you stopped your ministry? What mission work ground to a halt because you withdrew your funding, prayers and support? Could it be -- just imagine with me a moment -- could it be that you never really were a part of the church? Could that be why your departure was unnoticed? When you die, as we all will, you can either fill a hole or leave it. Your choice. I have no interest in filling a hole. I have a great interest in leaving one. Make your life something that gives, serves, and leads in such a way that when you are gone, it matters! I ask my staff and my children -- but mostly I ask myself -- 'what difference did it make that you lived today? In what way did you do something that would have remained undone without you? Did your life matter today?' Did you pray for someone fervently? Did you sacrifice some money or pleasure for another's benefit? Did you offer kindness and courtesy to someone everybody else ignored? Did you look for those who have been robbed and beaten by life and offer to them everything you had to help them as did the Samaritan?"

To all of us who are followers of Jesus, these are good questions to ask ourselves. What impact are you making in the life and ministry of your church, and through your church to a lost world? How big a hole will be left when you die?

Several of our members have moved out of state this year. They left some big holes in ministry in our church. If you need more ministry to do, please see the pastor. One current need is someone to help out in the office with mailings, copying, folding, etc. These are things most anyone can do. How about you?

— pastor Robin