



X. We are Sinking

"If anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was." James 1:23-24

Many of today's Christian men, without adequate models, mentors, and teachers have acquiesced to maintaining the mundane and the misdirected. Rather than seeing themselves as soldiers of the Cross warring behind enemy lines, they have conceded to a passive and lukewarm spirituality of second-hand ministry. Unchallenged to a higher calling, they have settled for being just believers rather than disciples. Too many of their churches are institutionalized places of encouragement and entertainment rather than places of equipping. Such churches, no longer seeing themselves as spiritual outposts of the Great Commission, have become ends unto themselves. Many seem to be more committed to the Great Campus than to the Great Commission. Making disciples has been eclipsed by attracting attendees. Sadly, the Great Commission is little more than the Great Omission. Such institutions are more of a fading cultural phenomenon than a rising counter-cultural revolution. A majority of Christian men in their morality, and their churches in their methodologies, are indistinguishable from the men and institutions of the world. Their lives have morphed into a soft spirituality that takes little more than a conciliatory stand against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Moreover, they are afraid to stand against the conformist failure of much of today's Christianity. The great ship of church has hit an iceberg in the cold oceans of mediocrity. She is taking on water and listing to starboard. What is the response of most of its deckchair passengers as it sinks low into the icy waters of uninformed sterility? They applaud the improved view from the port-side rail ... speak of building bigger ships ... and head back to the ship's buffet table of fats and sweets. All the while, the dining-hall clamor and the boisterous ballroom music drown out the cries of multitudes in its wake slipping below the surface of the waters of eternity. When you look into the mirror of the Word, do you see that we are sinking?

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