

Great Day everyone..... We are so glad, that you could join us today on a new Crossroad, that leads to new Discoveries.....

So I started thinking about "*how much I **minimalize** things*", in my life. It is amazing to me, that when I really take the time, to think about what all I have **minimalized**, in my life. I have walked away, astounded at myself, each time.

I walk away and ask: ***WHY do I take things of Great importance and just SHRINK them down, almost out of sight and thought?***

Today's Message title is: "**Marginalizing The Master**"

*What does "**Marginalize**" mean, anyway? As a verb (or, action), it means "To treat a person, group, or concept as insignificant, or on the peripheral (meaning: almost out of sight)."*

Dictionary.com says of Marginalizing, "*to place in a position of minor or marginal importance, significance, relevance, or effect.*"

The Cambridge Dictionary says To Marginalize is, "*to treat someone, or something as if they are not important.*"

* *Seriously*, look at the 2 words, that I have been using:

1) Marginalize.... If we take off the "*alize*" – we are left with

Margin" ~ as if to put people *OUTSIDE* of the Margin of your Care boundaries.

2) Minimalize.... If we take off the "malize" – we are left with **Mini**" ~ as if to *SHRINK* people down, so that it is easier to step over them, without taking notice of them.

Think deeply now, Who or What do you possibly Marginalize, or Minimalize - like they are unimportant?

Is it someone close to you? Is it church? Is it people on the opposite side of *your* belief system? Is it your work? Is it God, Himself?.

John 3:30, "**He must increase - but I must decrease**" ESV

Now that sounds good **But wait**, we can reverse that (*and we often do*)! We reverse it to read, "**He must decrease, but I (or, the things that we love), must increase**".

Truly, today's message is aiming at: **How we typically (and sometimes unknowingly) bring Jesus down to "OUR" size** (We make Him to be "**all human, with NO divinity**".) We **Marginalize** Him (we put Him on the *OUTSKIRTS* of our daily life-script, in our peripheral). We **Minimalize** Him (we *SQUASH* and *SQUEEZE* Him down, to something more manageable, for

ourselves down to small print).

1) They say, "**Out of sight; Out of mind**". Well, that is exactly one of the ways, of **HOW** we Marginalize God. We say " Well, *I don't SEE God hanging around here, so I'll just do as I please!*".
(Like He doesn't SEE or HEAR us.)

Beautiful people, we better revise that kind of thinking because **God is EVERYWHERE**, seeing and hearing all that we do and say. The scriptures say, that "*He will judge us – exactly the way, that He saw and heard us judge others!*"

If we Marginalize God, in this way (*like He is NOT around*) we effectively lose our ultimate, and healthy, fear of Him *our reasonable fear of His Eminence (His Supremacy and Reign) - His Resolve - His Power - His Holiness - His Ability to give and take life – and even, His Ability to receive some in heaven, and send others to their hell.* **Psalm 14:1-2** says, "**1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."** *They are corrupt; their acts are vile. There is no one who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven, upon the sons of men, to see if any understand, if any seek God.*" BSB

Goodness sweet people, do not use the concept "**Out of sight; Out of mind**", with God. Remember in your heart, that He is Truly EVERYWHERE (*which qualifies Him to BE God*) and He is observing

what all we do and say, from our being (*from **within** our spirit*)

And in this way, we can **KEEP FROM** Marginalizing God.

2) Another way that we Marginalize God is when we “Lose Reverence, for Who ALL Jesus is!”. He is NOT just our “Friend” but He is also our very Holy, Holy, Holy, God who WILL *maintain* His Holiness, to the ends of the universe and beyond *no matter what it takes* (for sure His Holy Word says, “Nothing/No one, impure will enter the Kingdom of God”).

To see God, as *just* a “Friend”, *Denies Who ALL He really is!*

The Bible says that when Jesus returns to earth one day, *He will be frightening*, to all those, who would NOT give Him His rightful due, or Place of Honor, Glory, and Respect (*or, Reverence*)!

Friendship with Jesus is an absolute joy **But** Reverence to His Supremacy, Authority and Power, is a must! We will ALL bow down to the Glory of King Jesus! We are NOT The Potter; we are just the clay. He is The Creator, and we are the created. **He** is The Master, and we are His servants. He is The Parent; we are the children.

We are constantly **guilty** of *bringing Jesus down* into our worship and talk ABOUT Him like He is *just one of the fellas*, like He is one of “*our people*”. Literally, we bring Jesus back down to earth (*in our mind and heart*) and see Him as just another one of us! (*an earthly Jesus, makes us feel better about our brokenness!*)

God is NOT *"one of us"*. He is *"The One, in and over us"*. He already **IS** Exalted; high and lifted up *having the Name above all other names!*

* Can you see it - *How in our mind and heart, we so quickly LOSE SIGHT, of "Who All Jesus really is"?*

We can easily just **LOSE SIGHT** of Him being GOD – Master – King of kings & Lord of lords – Savior – Alpha and Omega – The Ancient of days – Giver and taker of life – the One and Only True God; Who is of/over all things, all peoples, all nations and all of creation. Seriously, *How often DO we FORGET that Jesus (our brother and friend) IS also all of these things?*

When we DON'T see Him for *"Who He really is"*, it's easy for us, to just continue in sin. Why? Because we've brought Him down. We've made Him out to NOT BE *"Who All that He really is"* (or *LESS THAN He really is*). In essence, we create the God that WE want instead of realizing the God Who IS (to borrow from **Casting Crowns**). He is the God of The Old Testament and the God of The New Testament and He WILL bring about the end of all time (*Judgement = salvation or punishment*), just as His Word says that He WILL. * *In light of this, shouldn't we NOT BE Marginalizing God.... Shrinking Him down until He's not even recognizable, in our life, and in our worship?*

Look, "*Losing Reverence, for Who ALL Jesus is!*" Happens when we make Jesus to be *just the* "SUBJECT" of our worship and talk.

We talk a lot ABOUT Jesus.... We sing praises ABOUT Him.... But our talk and walk, usually stops there - with *Him only being* the Subject of our worship and talk.

* TRUE followers of Jesus Christ "*MUST worship Him in Spirit AND IN TRUTH*". *Truth about Who ALL He really is.*

We have GOT TO give Him back His *rightful* Place of Honor, Glory and Respect (*or, Reverence*)!

** **HE** must become the "**OBJECT**" of our worship and talk.

The Cambridge Dictionary says of "**Object**" that it is: "*A particular person, to which others direct their thoughts, feelings, or actions, towards*" (Surely, **Jesus is The One** to whom we should be directing our thoughts, feelings, and actions, towards!)

The Merriam Webster Dictionary says of "**Object**" that it is: "*a cause for attention or concern*" (Goodness, We are quick to give Jesus our **Concerns** but we are NOT quick to give Him our **Full-attention!**)

With these definitions, we can surmise that for Jesus to be the "**OBJECT**" of our worship and talk – **means: 1)** He must no

longer be placed *on the Margins* of our life-script. He must be placed *up front and center page*. **2)** He must no longer be *squashed down*, to be the small-print, *at the bottom* of our life-page. The Lord must be increased, while the worldliness of our lives, is decreased.

Are you hearing me today? Jesus is to BE the “Headlines of YOUR life’s newspaper”. I say this, because God’s Word says, “*it is so*”:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “*19 Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So, you must honor God with your body.*” NLT (yes, **with your everything!**)

Ephesians 3:16-17, “*16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts, as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.*” NLT

2 Corinthians 13:5, “*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you...*” NIV

In each of these letter-excerpts, Paul is telling the Christian-

believers, in his churches, that: **Jesus** is supposed to “**HAVE the Headlines of their lives**” so that unbelievers, who “**read their lives**”, may discover Jesus for themselves.

Those of you listening today, who have asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, **do you believe that Paul would be directing the same message to YOU today? Do you think there are any unbelievers out in this world who are “reading the script of YOUR life”?**

May the deepest recesses of your hearts, really **DESIRE** for God to help you, make **JESUS “front and center**, in your lives” so that YOU are always broadcasting **HIM**, with “**BIG font**”, across the newspaper of **YOUR** life! Remember, God has **US** fixed as the “**apple of His Eye** (that’s the **center** of His eye)” and His Desire is for us to fix **HIM**, as the apple of our eye, as well.

Let me close with a passage, that really speaks to “*what Jesus does, when He is The Headlines of YOUR life*”: **Galatians. 1:15-16**, “*15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him 16 to reveal his Son to (or, in) me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.*” NLT

(Wow, God reveals to us, that Jesus is living in our hearts, SO THAT, we can PROCLAIM Him, everywhere).

- **Adore God** to the fullest and **Headline JESUS** in and through **YOUR** life, this week, folks.

May YOUR life be an **OPEN-BOOK**, with **JESUS' Name** *showing* so **that** others may: see, read and acknowledge Him, as being The King of all kings = **JESUS!**

This world is thirsty and hungry for The Lord *and too many unbelievers, do not even know where to turn to find Him.*

** **IF Jesus is made** the Headline of **YOUR** life they will follow **YOU**, to discover **HIM**. If **YOU** will focus on God, then He will come into focus for **OTHERS** too.

- *The Word of God, today – for those who have ears to hear!.....*

Discovery Questions:

- 1) *Think deeply now, Who or What do "YOU" possibly Marginalize, or Minimalize - like they are unimportant?*
- 2) **John 3:30**, "**He must increase - but I must decrease**" ESV
What does this passage really mean?
- 3) "Out of Sight; Out of Mind"... *Have "YOU" ever treated, God this way?*
- 4) **Psalm 14:1-2** says, "**1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."** *They are corrupt; their acts are vile. There is no one who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven, upon the sons of men, to see if any understand, if any seek God.*" BSB *Could some of "YOUR" words or actions, ever have come across like "there is NO God"?*
- 5) *Is there really a danger in seeing Jesus as "just your bud or just your friend, alone"? Can our holiness take a backseat when we do NOT lift Jesus up, High and Holy?*
- 6) *Do you REALLY understand **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**? (NIV)*
- 7) *Do you "check yourself" often as **2 Corinthians 13:5** says that you should? (NIV)*