

## You Are Already There

1. A few weeks ago, I mentioned Victor Frankel and his study of the need each of us have for meaning – to matter. This world wants us to know that we do not matter and that the only route to mattering is to join the right group and chant the same things they chant, believe what they believe. THEN, you can mean something, you can matter.
2. But “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” When the world was at its worst, Jesus invaded. As in pawn shops and antique stores, a thing is worth what someone will pay for it. And what price was paid for you?
3. We are part of a culture that drives us to do more, work harder, or find some way to matter, to be significant...but, in Christ, you are already there. Let's notice something that is said in these passages but almost always missed.
4. “You are the salt of the earth...light in the darkness...a city set upon a hill.” (Matthew 5:13-14). I heard many sermons on this passage but not a single sermon told me what it said. They all called us “to be” salt, light, and a city on a hill and Jesus says...you are already there. So – act accordingly. (“can't take you anywhere”)
5. Jesus is the vine and “you are the branches.” (John 15:1,5) You already “are.” Jesus flows through you right now just as the vine pushes nourishment through the branches. When you look at a branch that is bearing fruit or in bloom, you know what it is. When people see us, they see Jesus. So...act accordingly.
6. You already have “been chosen” to bear fruit for God. (John 15:16) You have not been passed over. You aren't standing there at the end when the teams are picked. You aren't sitting at home on prom night. You've not only been chosen, you've been chosen to bear fruit. You are already designed, prepared, nourished and ready to do this. (interruptions, the person in front of you is the center of the universe)
7. “Your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:16). Note that it does not say “Your bodies should be” or “your bodies could be” but that they already are. You are already there. For

centuries, if you wanted to talk to God, you went to the temple and asked the priest to speak to Him for you. Now, you are the temple and you are the priest and you are at large among the people. So, act accordingly.

8. “You have been given the ministry of reconciliation” (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17-21). We do not drive wedges between people...so we are not judges and disapprovers. We are healers. So...act accordingly.
9. “You are fellow workers with Christ” (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:1). You are already a worker so make each day a good day at work. What is Jesus doing? Matthew 25 gives us a good idea as do the Gospels. So...act accordingly.
10. “You are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 2:6). Like the country song, you are already there so don't spend time here on earth fretting about salvation; live a saved life. It's okay to risk things and venture into the unknown because the end of the story has been written.
11. “You are God's workmanship, created for good works” (Ephesians 3:12). Please, please, please hear God here – you are designed and already right for the job. You are already equipped. If you don't fit in on this earth it is because the earth is fallen and its judgement is off. It doesn't see reality. It doesn't know truth or beauty. Its mirrors are warped and dim. God see us and has placed us where we are needed (Roman 12, First Corinthians 12, Psalm 139).
12. So...act accordingly.