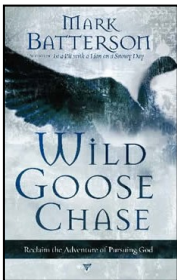


Library News



Book Review by Dan Benson “Wild Goose: Reclaim the Adventure of Pursuing God” by Mark Batterson

In *Wild Goose Chase: Reclaim the Adventure of Pursuing God*, author and pastor Mark Batterson challenges his readers to consider whether they are living out “inverted Christianity.”

“Instead of following the Spirit, we invite the Spirit to follow us. Instead of serving God's purposes, we want Him to serve our purposes,” Batterson writes. The result is something “less adventurous” than what God intends. “And what we end up with is a caged Christian.”

The title comes from the name ancient Celtic Christians apparently used for the Holy Spirit - An Geadh-Glas, which in Gaelic means “The Wild Goose.” It seems an apt name since the Holy Spirit is not always where we expect Him to be nor does he always act in the way we would choose. “Surely you are a God who hides himself,” the prophet Isaiah wrote (Isaiah 45:15).

But we don't want moving targets. We prefer God to be predictable. And that's where we miss the Holy Spirit in our lives, Batterson writes. “Faith is not logical. But it isn't illogical either. Faith is theological. It does not ignore reality; it just adds God to the equation. ... Logic questions God. Faith questions assumptions.”

Batterson lists six “cages” that keep us “from roaming free with the Wild Goose and living the spiritual adventure God destined us to.” They are:

- The cage of responsibility (our responsibilities become spiritual excuses).
- The cage of routine (our sacred routines become empty rituals).
- The cage of assumption (I'm too old, young, underqualified, overqualified, too late, too soon).
- The cage of guilt (if you focus on the past, you won't have the energy to dream Kingdom dreams).
- The cage of failure (divine detours and delays are the ways God gets us where he wants us to go).

- The cage of fear (We need to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death).

Batterson, who is lead pastor of National Community Church in Washington, D.C., says these cages doom us to an inactive and impotent Christian lifestyle. “Some of us live as though we expect to hear God to say, ‘Well thought good and faithful servant,’ or ‘Well said, good and faithful servant,’” he writes.

Instead, “I like to think that when I pronounce the benediction at the end of our church services, I am sending dangerous people back into their natural habitat to wreak havoc on the Enemy. ... We start dying when we have nothing worth living for. And we don't really start living until we find something worth dying for.”

The answer to breaking out of our cages is to seek and listen for God's will for us, which is difficult to discern “because it often involves making a decision that seems irresponsible.” One clue is to examine our own passions, which are “far more important than any human qualifications we can bring to the table. In fact, God uses us at our point of greatest incompetence. That way he gets all the credit.”

Following the Holy Spirit also requires heightened sensitivity. “Spiritual maturity has less to do with long-range visions than it does with moment-by-moment sensitivity to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. And it is our moment-by-moment sensitivity to the Holy Spirit that turns life into an every day adventure.”

Men's Ministry

By Gary Schlenvogt

Our next Men's get-together will be held at the Cedar Court parsonage (933 Cedar Court in Port). We will be doing outside work such as trimming bushes and staining the deck. This will take place on Saturday, July 9, starting at 8am. We will have coffee, juice, water and doughnuts provided by the Men's Ministry.



Save the Date:
2011 Baptism Picnic
August 28