



*"...stop and consider the wondrous works of
God." - Job 37:14*

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND



This week, JT and I were able to attend our Christian Camp and Conference Association's Tennessee/Kentucky Cabinet Meeting. The purpose of our time together was to plan and prepare for our TN/KY Sectional in February when camps from TN and KY join together for a time of learning, encouragement, and networking. Every sectional that we, as the Bancroft staff, have been able to attend, we always leave refreshed, encouraged, and motivated to continue in the work the Lord has called us to.

So, as JT and I attended the Cabinet meeting for primarily work purposes, what we found was the joy and refreshment of joining together with fellow camp leaders and the fellowship that we could experience together. The community that we find with fellow camp leaders is a sweet community.

Maybe you should know that the TN/KY Sectional Conferences are called the "Better Together Conference," and how true that is.

This made me STOP & Consider the wondrous work of community that the Lord has given us.

John Donne (1572-1631) was an English poet who later became a cleric in the Church of England. He once wrote, "No man is an island, entire of himself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

Essentially what he was saying was that WE NEED EACH OTHER.

But how often do we operate our lives as though we are an island to ourselves?

We take the full weight of whatever we are going through, the full weight of our responsibilities, the full weight of our temptations, and bear it alone.

This isn't how the Lord has designed us.

This reminds me of Exodus 18 when Moses's father-in-law comes to visit him at the base of Mount Sinai after he has led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

The Lord would soon descend upon up the top of Mt. Sinai and give the law to Moses, but before that took place, Jethro came to visit and brought Moses's wife and children to him. One day Jethro watched Moses as he sat in judgment for the people of Israel. The people would come to Moses and ask him to inquire of the Lord for them and judge their various disputes. Jethro confronts Moses and tells him this in **Exodus 18:18**, "*...the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.*"

Jethro then directs Moses to select capable men who can serve as judges as well so that Moses wouldn't have to bear the full weight and responsibility on his own. Jethro tells Moses that if he would follow his advice, *"God will direct you, and you will be able to endure (Ex. 18:23),"* Fortunately, Moses follows his father-in-law's advice, and he is able to endure.

God has designed us for community, to share one another's burdens (**Gal 6:2**), but how often do we force ourselves onto an island to ourselves and bear the full weight of it all? Even worse, we fail to take our burdens to the Lord for His help even though He tells us to cast all our burdens upon Him because He cares for us (**1 Peter 5:7**).

Let us not be so arrogant to think that only we can bear these burdens but let us look to God and those around us to help us carry them, because then *"God will direct you, you will be able to endure (Ex. 18:23)."*

We truly are Better Together.

Derrick Marrs
Ministry Director

WE'VE BEEN HIJACKED!!



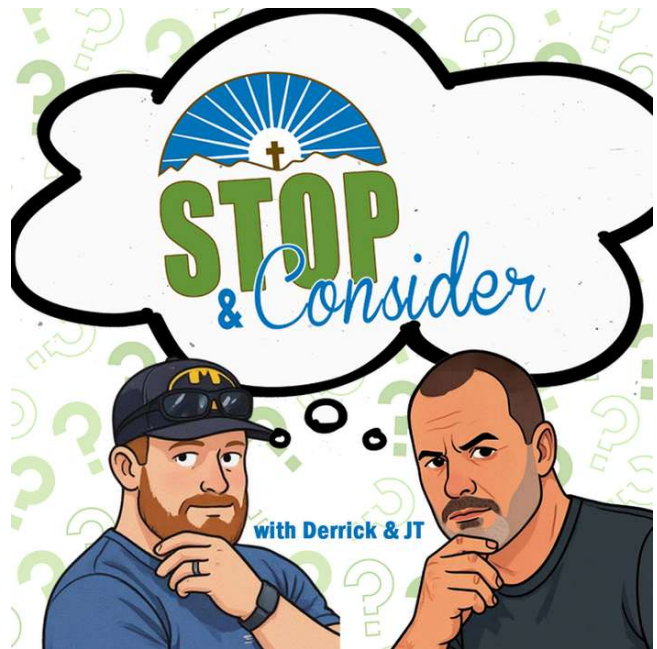
We haven't even released our first podcast episode and we've already been HIJACKED!

It seems like everyone is getting excited for the podcast release--even to the point of wanting to start their own!

We are only a few weeks away from the official launch of Bancroft's STOP & Consider Podcast and working hard to provide you with entertaining and valuable content.

Upon launch, the first FIVE episodes will be available to everyone everywhere you listen to your podcasts. Once launched, episodes will drop every two weeks.

Be sure to check out our corresponding YouTube channel as well!



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