

SNAP SLIDE

SNAP benefits delayed. Our church help the vulnerable. We help Bradley families. You receive text about kind of food. We have that list also in app. Tap card to get app.

Buy food. Bring to church between 7.30 and 4pm Tuesday

Luke Slide

I'm reading a book right now entitled "Against the Machine: On the Unmaking of Humanity"

Its definitely a book about the dangers of our increasing technological age- the role of AI in our demise, etc. etc.

But- when the author Paul Kingsnorth refers to "The Machine" he's not JUST talking about AI, the internet, and your doorbell camera- even more so he's talking about the monetization of everything and the nature of consuming everything over cultivating.

Pillars slide

For a lot of reasons- that resonates with what we've learning this year in particular about Pillars. The kinds of people God calls us to be as leaders.

Explain Pillars as agents of flourishing.

FLOURISHING-

Kind of like a state of flow. Shalom.

Makes space to bring flourishing to those they lead through their own sacrifice.

The opposite of a Pillar is a Platformer.... center of attention. Draws it to himself

Pillars Pray to Cultivate.

Platformers Perform to Consume.

With that in mind: Let me share something Kingsnorth wrote.

He says that there is a kind of spirituality behind the consumeristic greed of the Machine. Its a religion- a kind of worship.

"[The religion of the machine is] spiritual but not religious, individualistic on the surface yet conformed beneath ..., spiritually hungry but devoid of guidance or direction, committed to total self-expression yet unsure who or what we even are, suspicious of any limits to all these enslaving 'freedoms'; this is our world. One strand that ties all this together: The worship of the self, a worship both utterly ferocious and at the same time strangely insecure.

- Paul Kingsnorth, Against the Machine

The worship of the self is utterly ferocious & strangely insecure.

Look at the irony of worship of the self. Utterly ferocious- Confident. Violent. Cruel. Yet like most bullies- the reason self-worship has to be so performatively confident- is because really at the bottom, its ridiculously fragile.

Tearing down others to exalt the insecure self. That's a bully if I've ever heard of one.

Its the Exact opposite of a Pillar. This is a Platformer. Performing to Consume. It is the religion of the hypocrite. Appearing confident- deeply insecure.

Title Slide, "Utterly Ferocious & Strangely Insecure: How to Leave the Woe & Live the Flow"- Luke 11:37-54

I want to show you this worship of self- this religion of the machine- not in the future... but in the past....and how to escape it in the present.

Jesus describes it with one very alarming and curious word. "Woe!"

We're going to go through this one piece at a time

37-38

As he was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him. So he went in and reclined at the table. 38 When the Pharisee saw this, he was amazed that he did not first perform the ritual washing before dinner.

FAR SIDE CARTOON

Back to 37-38

The Talmud- or written Jewish tradition- teaches that God gave the law to Moses and Moses was to pass it along to great leaders of Israel who were to deliberate on how to apply it. Then- they were to train disciples in it. And they were to build a wall around it to make sure that the actual law was not transgressed.

Its kind of like telling your kids not to go in the neighbors yard because they have a big dog. The problem is not the yard. The problem is if you go in the yard...you set yourself up to get attacked. The dog MIGHT get you. The real law is "Don't let the dog attack you". The wall around the law is "Don't go in the yard".

So thats what we're dealing with in these ritual washings. It not that they are bad- its just that they aren't the law. Not only that- these ritual keepings of the law provided an

opportunity for a mere display of righteousness that the Jews could judge each other by. Kind of like if you didn't go in your neighbors yard, but had their dog come into your yard. You would be completely missing the point. And then imagine bragging to your friends about how you have NEVER been into your neighbors yard.

Thats whats going on here with the handwashing...and Jesus is calling it out.

39-41

But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and evil. 40 Fools! Didn't he who made the outside make the inside too? 41 But give from what is within to the poor, and then everything is clean for you."

Explain "greed" as violent Robbery- Plunder. We know they were stealing from widows. We know instead of helping their aging parents live, they were spending the money on themselves and since they were religious- saying it was what God wanted them to do.

Jesus calls them FOOLS- operating not in the grain of the way God made the universe- but in your own way. Against the grain.

Explain **"Give from what is within to the poor.- then everything is clean"**

Basically- make the inside clean- and the overflow will be good.

But try to just do the good thing- you'll end up still worshipping yourself. Hoping people just look at what you're doing without any concern for worship of God and love of neighbor.

Notice the emphasis on using your money- your power- your position as a leader to help others flourish. Sacrifice for cultivation in others. This is the FLOW Jesus calls us to.

v 42

"But woe to you Pharisees! You give a tenth of mint, rue, and every kind of herb, and you bypass justice and love for God. These things you should have done without neglecting the others."

Woe is not a curse. Its not the opposite of blessing. Those are covenant ideas. To understand it...lets look at something we talked about last week...and back in Luke 6.

If you've been reading and memorizing the sermon on the mount- you know this word in the Beatitudes.

Luke 6:20 & 24

Blessed is not a great translation. Greek word is Makarios. The simplest translation is “happy” but probably the better idea is FLOURISHING or FULL of LIFE.

And you can see from Luke’s version of the beatitudes that the opposite is WOE. So- not flourishing. Not full of life. Full of LOSS.

And to make it easy- I think its helpful to remember it as an acronym.

WoE- Way of Exhaustion

Yo use in Luke 6:24- with the woe Jesus says- ok- you got your money. But thats as full as you are goin got get. There is no more reward. And that money- and the chase of it...and the struggle to keep it...and the way it corrupts how you see people and the world...its going to empty you. EXHAUST YOU.
You will find yourself in the way of Exhaustion.

v 42

Now, look at the comparison of the Way of Exhaustion and the way of flourishing.

WOE- Tithe the seasoning & ignore the substance

FLOW- Generous overflow from the inside

You pay attention to the minutiae of the way you will be perceived tithe the seasoning...not the substance- the inside.

When you want to appear generous- but you hold back for yourself- you steal from the God who put it all in your hands.

Notice- Jesus talks about Justice and Love as the weightier matters of the law. Justice is the act of making things right that have gone wrong. Bringing flow back to broken people and situations. Love is sacrificially contributing for someone because you see them and believe in who they are or can become.

EXAMPLE:

SNAP shutdown.

Met with OVERFLOW.

They way the people of this church generously give.

43-44

Woe to you Pharisees! You love the front seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

44 “Woe to you! You are like unmarked graves; the people who walk over them don’t know it.”

Platformers perform to consume. They want to be seen.
They want all the honor of living a godly life- without actually living the life.

Jesus says they are like unmarked graves..

Ritually, to touch a dead person- or to walk over a dead persons grave would make you ritually unclean. Then- without knowing it you would go to the temple unclean. It would be an affront to God and endanger your life.

WOE- Take Honor & Life

FLOW- Give Honor & Life

Jesus is saying- “In the way that you live, you are teaching people hypocrisy. You are teaching them the way of exhaustion and death. Instead of the way of life. You are teaching people to aim for the external honor- instead of GIVE honor. and by doing this- you are taking real FLOURISHING from people so you can have the temporary buzz of a greeting in the marketplace.

Instead you should consider others more important than yourselves. You should outdo one another in showing honor. You should speak life into others.

When people encounter these Pharisees- the pharisees are leading them in the wrong way. They are leading them to death, not life. In another gospel he talks about how the Pharisees go out of their way to make a convert- but they are just making twice the sons of hell as they are.

v 45

One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things you insult us too.”

Listen to the fragility! Insecurity!
What will Jesus say, “Oh, I’m so sorry I offended you. I should be more careful. You experts in the law are NOTHING like the pharisees!”

Instead...

v46

Then he said, “Woe also to you experts in the law! You load people with burdens that are hard to carry, and yet you yourselves don’t touch these burdens with one of your fingers.

WOE- Burden others while you do nothing.

FLOW- Take on burdens with others to bring flourishing.

v 47-51

47 “Woe to you! You build tombs for the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48 Therefore, you are witnesses that you approve the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their monuments. 49 Because of this, the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’ 50 so that this generation may be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world — 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.

“Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible.

Jesus is saying- “When prophets of the past have been sent by God- your forefathers killed them...because they didn’t like what the prophets said. The prophets called your fathers to repentance. so they killed them.

Later- you come along honoring your fathers- and honoring the prophets by building them monuments. While you still reject their call to repentance. In other words- you honor these past prophets so long as it benefits you...but you still aren’t repenting.

So- you are held responsible for the killing of those prophets.

Abel to Zechariah. First- this is a way of summarizing the OT- Genesis to 2nd Chronicles- (works with a-z)

but its about more than that.

Tell Abel’s story- Cain only offered what made him LOOK good- not what cost him. Killed his brother who made him look bad. Classic Bully move.

Gen 4:10-11a

Then he said, “What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! 11 So now you are cursed,

2 Chronicles 24:20-22

20 The Spirit of God enveloped Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood above the people and said to them, “This is what God says, ‘Why are you transgressing the Lord’s commands so that you do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the Lord, he has abandoned you.’ ” 21 But they conspired against him and stoned him at the king’s command in the courtyard of the Lord’s temple. 22 King Joash didn’t remember the kindness that Zechariah’s father

Jehoiada had extended to him, but killed his son. While he was dying, he said, "May the Lord see and demand an account."

Luke 11:52

52 "Woe to you experts in the law! You have taken away the key to knowledge. You didn't go in yourselves, and you hindered those who were trying to go in."

Experts of law were misinterpreting Scripture. In doing so- not only were they keeping themselves from recognizing the call of the prophets to repent- they were keeping others out of the KoG as well. Out of flourishing. Because they simply wanted Scripture to say what benefited them.

WOE- Twists scripture to ignore repentance

FLOW- Hears the word of the Lord and obeys

(Luke 11:28)

v 53-54

53 When he left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to oppose him fiercely and to cross-examine him about many things; 54 they were lying in wait for him to trap him in something he said.

Now- the full fruit of the Utterly Ferocious, and strangely insecure scribes and Pharisees.

It ends in violence. Instead of repentance. Like their forefathers- they don't listen to the words of Jesus and repent- they listen to the words of Jesus to try and trap him- to eliminate him.

See- when you believe that its either YOU or GOD- just like Adam and Eve did in the Garden. That if God gets his honor you will be miserable...you'll try to eliminate him from your life.

and because of that- you are guilty before God of treason. Attempted assassination of the MOST HIGH.

Abel and Zechariah's blood calls for condemnation. Your sin haunts you like a ghost from an unmarked grave. You trying to keep up appearances is exhausting. ITS LIKE IN THE WOE.

But this entire time you have not listened to Jesus. More importantly- you've ignored what he's done for you.

Hebrews 12:24

and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel.

1 Peter 1:18-19

8 For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.

Better than Abel and Zechariah- Jesus death was a death that took your condemnation- not demand it. Jesus' blood calls for your acquittal and forgiveness

And where you neglected Justice and Love for Greed and Evil- Jesus made way for Justice and Love- to coexist. He took the justice of God's wrath against sin- purging evil- BECAUSE HE SO deeply loves you.

Woe- is the way of the platformer. The hypocrite.
Flow- Flourishing- is the way of Christ.

You don't have to be Utterly Ferocious & Strangely Insecure .

If you look to what Jesus has done for you- you can overflow- **Utterly Generous & Strangely Secure.**

The right kind of warrior takes on his own internal demons before he sails out to take on those of others. He takes his stand, and stands his ground, without giving in to the [meaningless pursuits] of the age. He holds to what he believes in without falling into the traps laid by partisanship, anger, and self-righteousness.

Most of all, he works to clear out his own inner junkyard so that he can go searching for truth— and recognize it when he finds it. His war is against the worst of himself and for the best of the world, and what he is fighting for is the love he so often fails at.

His most effective weapon is sacrifice. - Paul Kingsnorth, Against the Machines

Prayer Team.