The Hole In Our Gospel

The Answer that Changed My Life and Just Might Change the World

by Richard Stearns

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Part 1: THE HOLE IN MY GOSPEL - AND MAYBE YOURS

        "Kindness has converted more sinner than zeal, eloquence, or learning." - Fredrick W. Faber

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        "The gospel means much more than the personal salvation of individuals.  It means a *social revolution*." - 20

Chapter 2: A Coward for God - 25

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        "When we say that we want to be His disciple, yet attach a list of conditions, Jesus refuses to accept our terms.  His terms involve unconditional surrender."- 38

Part 2: THE HOLE GETS DEEPER

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        "If we truly love God, we will express it by loving our neighbors, and when we truly love our neighbors, it expresses our love for God." - 66

        "And if we really are partners (68) with Him, then it follows that we are not to stand by, 'looking into the sky' (see Acts 1:11) and casually waiting for Christ's return.  No, we're to go about the Master's business, carrying the good news through our words and deeds, thereby ushering in the kingdom of God." - 69

        N.T. Wright - Suprised by Hope

Chapter 6: A Hole In Me - 73

        "It's not what you believe that counts; it's what you believe enough to do." - 87

Chapter 7: The Stick in Your Hand - 88

        "The truth is that surrender is not any easy thing to do.  But without that surrender a solider is not useful to the army, and a Christian is not useful to God." - 89

        "God can't give you the blessings He has for you until you first put down the other things you are clutching in your hands." - 89

        "Note that God did not review Moses' qualifications for the job at hand; He only wanted his obedience.  God would do the rest." - 91

        "A calling, which is something I do for God, is replaced by a career, which threatens to become my god.  A career is something I choose for myself, a calling is something I recieve.  A career is something I do for myself; a calling is something I do for God.   A career promises status, money or power; a calling generally promises difficulty and even some suffering - and the opportunity to be used by God.  A career is about upward motion; a calling generally leads o downward mobility." - John Ortberg - 93

        "Why did God make me? To love, serve, and obey Him.  Very simple, yet extremely profound.  If we all woke up every morning asking, "How can I love, serve and obery God today?"  it migh change everything - it might even change the world." - 94

Part 3: A HOLE IN THE WORLD

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        "Today we live in a media-saturated, Internet-connected, cell phone-equpped world in which everything that happens anywhere is instantly available everywhere." - 102

        "We have become detached and indifferent toward the constant and repeated images of poverty and adversity that bombard us.  In fact, our apathy has even earned its own term: *compassion fatigue*.  But we *cannot* claim that we don't know that our distant neighbor is in need - not anymore, not today." - 102

Chapter 9: One Hundred Crashing Jetliners - 106

        "The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it." - Flannery O'Conner - 106

Chapter 10: What's Wrong with This Picture? - 114

        "Christianity is flourishing wonderfully among the poor and persecuted while it atrophies among the rich and secure." - Philip Jenkins - 116

        "What I have discovered in my travels to more than forty countries with World Vision is that almost all poverty is fundamentally the result of a lack of option." - 118

        "Said differently, Americans comprise only about 4.5 percent of the world.  Most people are surprised at how small the United States is compared to the rest of the world."  - 121

        "Imagine that all 6.7 billion people on earth could be represented by a single "global village" of just 100 people.  Out of 100 people:

        60 would be Asian

        14 would be African

        12 would be European

        8 would be Latin American

        5 would be American or Canadian

        1 would be from the South Pacific

        51 would be male; 49 would be female

        82 would be non-white; 18 white

        67 would be non-Christian; 33 would be Christian

        We might summarize this by saying we live in a world that is non-Americna,  non-white, and non-Christian." - 121

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        "Frankly, giving things to the poor does much more to make the giver feel good than it does to fundamentally address and improve the condition of those in need." - 126

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Chapter 13: Spiders, Spiders, and More Spiders - 151

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        "Pray, but when you pray, move to your feet." - African proverb

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        Three clear principles, then, differentiate the scriptural view of our money from the "American Dream" view:

        1. It's not our money - it all comes from God

        2. We are not entitled to it but entrusted with it.

        3. God expects us to use it in the interest of His kingdom. - 207

Chapter 19: Two Percent of Two Percent - 210

        "The tithe was not considered a gift to God - it *belonged* to God.  There were other provisions that spoke to freewill giving, but any sch offerings were to be over and above the 10 percent required for the tithe.  That first 10 percent was seen as a bare minimum one would set aside for The Lord." - 211

        "I love the recklessness of faith.  First you leap, and then you grow wings." - William Sloane Coffin - 214

        "Said another way, American Christians, who make up about 5 percent of the Church worldwide, control about half of global Christian wealth; a lack of money is not our problem." - 216

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        "The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we elieve to be just." - Abraham Lincoln  - 243

        "You and I are not meant to act like preressurrection disciples, racked with fear, doubt, and timidity.  We are postresurrection disciples, and if we are to live postresurrection disciples, everything in our lives must change." - 245

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        "Thus, when considering our talents, we need to consider all of the above - our abilities, personalities, passions, pursuits, knowledge, experiences, and relationships and networks.  These things are all resources we possess that can be used in one way or another." - 264

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