

DAY 27

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 27
2024

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."
Luke 4:18-19, NASB

OUR CITY

PRAY FOR A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN HOUSTON
THAT OUR WHOLE CITY FEELS AND WE WILL TALK
ABOUT IN ETERNITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Jesus enters the synagogue of his city, reads Isaiah. In so doing, he's saying the gospel is good news for the marginalized. (Poor, captive, blind, oppressed) this emphasis at the beginning of his ministry is key, because the centering the margins is what marks the mission of the church.

Houston is a city of forests and deserts, of affluence and margins. It's a place where the suburbs have the best schools, finances... Meanwhile, the center of the city where most of the subdominant culture lives, is the opposite. There, we see terrible schools, poverty, crime...

Unfortunately, this division is also evident in the way the church functions. Ex: the greatest # of churches are being planted in the forests (dominant culture)

"We need to rediscover the fullness of the gospel that addresses the full range of human problems. If we only do cultural discipleship between dominant culture, we end up worsening the marginalization of sub-dominant culture. This would be an affront to the biblical gospel of Christ." —Carl Ellis, Jr.

while at the same time we allow churches in the inner city to close.

It's time for a more holistic vision for our city. It's time to centralize the margins and collaboration to see the dignity not only in the dominant culture, but also in the subdominant culture.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, I ask that you make us sensitive to the call and mission of all the churches in Houston to the centrality of the margins (Poor, captive, blind...). May our differences be the catalyst for our collaboration, that with integrity and sincerity of heart we seek together to reach them.



Contributed by Victor Marte, Church Consultant | Union Baptist Association
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HOUSTON