



Ending Points

9 Personal Decisions for the Common Good

A little bit of breath, a few sentences were apparently enough to spark saving a girl's life, that's phenomenal. The lesson that I take from this, that I think is important to share with you, is quite simply is that every interaction gives or takes life. There is no such thing as a neutral interaction... *Chris O'Shaunessy*.

- How can you invest in the lives of your friends?
- How do you measure relationships by their integrity, not their usefulness?
- How do you act on your beliefs? How do you love your neighbour?

I witnessed the power of faith, and the quiet dignity of working people in the face of struggle and loss... this is where I learned that change only happens when ordinary people get involved, and they get engaged, and they come together to demand it. *President Obama*.

- How can you take the place you live seriously? How can you take responsibility for it?

In a true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as the place where the person you least want to live with always lives! *Parker J Palmer, 1977 Qf&p 10.19*

Real change is about being willing to give up your power and privilege that is afforded to you as a resident of the western world. As well as to recognise how the lens through which your skin colour is perceived affects your privilege.

- How can you make choices for the common good rather than your personal good?
- How can you make choices that distinguish between wants and needs?

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. *Desmond Tutu*

- What in your world today most breaks your heart and offends your sense of justice? How can you respond to this?

Citizens remind us why civil society is so essential. When people are free to speak their minds and hold their leaders accountable, governments are more responsive and more effective. *President Obama*.

- How can you get to know your political representatives and hold them accountable?

No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for. *Martin Luther King*

- The difference between events and movements is sacrifice, ask yourself what is important enough to give your life to and for?

Based on Ten Personal Decisions for the Common Good by Jim Wallis
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