



masterpiece

boston winter conference | january 2-6, 2008

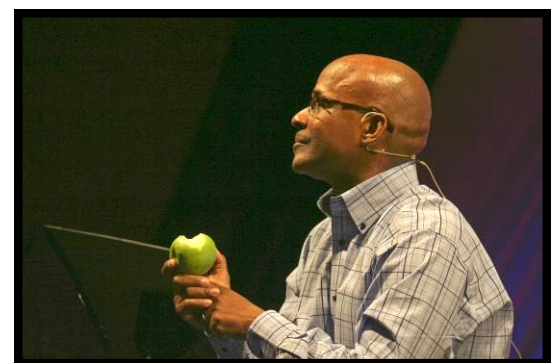
Masterpiece: a work of art that is considered extraordinary. Leonardo Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, Michelangelo's *David*, William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, or Ludwig van Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, are masterpieces; recognized globally as irreplaceable works **admired for their beauty and elegance.**

At the Boston Winter Conference, over 300 students from the Northeast were asked to consider what it means to be God's masterpiece. Ephesians 2:10 says that "we are **God's workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." Both "reassuring" (Katie, St. Joseph's College) and "humbling" (Bing, University of Massachusetts, Boston), God has a role for each of us in His great plan.

Shane Deike made this clear on the first night of the conference, "God spent more time developing you than he did creating the universe." Psalm 139 says that God "**knit me together in my mother's womb**" but it only took a word to bring the universe into being. Carrie Walker reminded us that if God can create the universe in a word he can surely handle our lives. We are God's art and need to **stop "tearing it apart."** The students at the Boston Winter Conference were challenged to live authentically, as people of destiny.



Through speakers, seminars, and outreach in the city of Boston, students learned how they can reach their own campuses for the Kingdom of God and work within His masterpiece. The final speaker, James White, used the illustration of a half-eaten apple bound for the trash. "There is potential in what we see as a useless, half-eaten apple: slice away the bad for eating, make applesauce or potpourri... There's always room (potential) in what we think should be thrown away but is a masterpiece. God's going to do a work in you making you a masterpiece."



If you are a part of God's Masterpiece, it's like a puzzle – if you aren't there, the puzzle doesn't make sense. *-Isaac Lugo, University of Connecticut*

The Day of Outreach

Ashley, a Sophomore from Suffolk University, had **never shared her faith before**. Arriving at Lion of Judah church in one of Boston's poorest neighborhoods, Ashley was nervous but excited to see what God had prepared. As Ashley and Dane, a student from Northeastern University, walked around the neighborhood they stopped at a bus stop when they heard some people arguing. "Are we interrupting?" Dane asked the man and woman, "Is there anything we can pray about for you?" With those words, the woman who was arguing grabbed Ashley's arm and exclaimed, "**I need some prayer!**"

Over the next twenty minutes the woman poured her heart out while Ashley prayed for her and **tears streamed down her face**. The woman was smart, a CPA, but had spent two years in jail and was trying to put her life back together. "I'm telling you things I haven't even told my pastor," but the offer for prayer was irresistible. Even with no experience, Ashley, as **a part of God's masterpiece**, was able to bring His love to the neighborhood surrounding Lion of Judah church and the woman waiting at the bus stop.



Finding our identity in Christ and **being confident of whom God has made us** to be and being used by Him in the redeeming of this world is what it means to be God's masterpiece. Hearing the concept of **not being jealous** or comparing myself to others was an enlightening way of viewing how negatively that attitude and act can affect the masterpiece that God has created. It's **definitely been refreshing** to hear about how much God loves us and has created us as a masterpiece and will continue to use us in incredibly unexpected ways.

-Josh Fong, New York University



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Musings in Ministry

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