

Disciple in the Marketplace – Nate Underwood

Transcript of Audio from the Video (4:02)

00:00:04 My name is Nate Underwood. I'm the co-founder and brew master of Harding House Brewing Company, and I am a disciple in the marketplace.

00:00:17 If you were to tell my college self that I would be helping run a brewery, I would have probably laughed in your face. Going to school, I saw a culture of beer that did not bring life to its community. Craft beer, craft brewing, is an alternative to a lot of the beer culture that we see around us. So, just like any nice meal, any piece of art, we can sit there, and we can savor it.

00:00:52 Beer has been definitely abused and used as a thing that has caused a lot of heartache and despair. What we're trying to do is say, "Hey, all of God's creation is being redeemed. We wanted to [be a] part [of] redeeming beer [that] could be used for good. And barley and water and yeast and hops and fruit and green tomatoes are all good.

00:01:23 So here at Harding House, we're all in mission to join in to creation. So, we try to source as many local ingredients as possible. Like when you think of craft beer, you think of stainless steel and concrete, but beer starts in the soil, starts in the ground, it starts in the form of putting a seed into soil. And so for us, brewing beer is an agricultural act, meaning it starts in the ground.

00:01:51 The health of the soil is the health of the community and the people on it. That means we need to be very conscious about where we get our ingredients to source our beer. By doing so, we get a product, we get a beer that has a sense of place.

00:02:07 In this big wide universe, cosmos [and] creation that God has left a unique individual fingerprint [on] – that each place is a little bit different – we get to experience that uniqueness that God created through our taste, through our smell, and through our senses. I'm really excited to discover what that is here in Nashville.

00:02:34 For us, buying local is one of the best ways that you can love your neighbor. Because our neighbors, they're just like us. Going out and supporting the creative work, the business that they're doing, is a way to say, 'Hey, I believe in you. I support you. I support what you're doing. It's the way that I can love you. That whatever you're creating in this world, I'm going to give you something that I've earned, that I worked hard for. It's given to me, I want to give it to you, because I believe in what you're doing as well.'

00:03:07 For the average patron who comes in, our goal is not to evangelize or convert them to Christianity. Our goal is to show life to them when they come into our business. It's an open bar. It's an open table. They can be themselves with everything that they bring, and they can enjoy a beer.

00:03:27 They can listen to a story that we believe that will make their life and their day a little bit better. We may not know how these stories will affect people. We're going to keep on telling them anyway because they're stories that have brought us life. And they are stories that have taught us. And I hope someday I get to witness the blessing of some kind of harvest of the seeds we're planting as a brewery.