

24: Don't Fear the Future

You can never get used to see how life can change in one second. Think about all the people were impacted. We know that the world, especially our country, feel desperate and hopeless. Not going to stick our head in the sand. Let's be real with it, the Bible says don't be afraid of it. Jesus says, Luke 21, the endtimes, v.26, people fainting with fear and foreboding of what is coming in the world. When you see these things begin to take place, raise up your heads and see redemption drawing near. Let's say the economy collapses, quality of life may be better. If we die, we die. To die is gain. Straighten up, we know how the story ends. Focus on eternity.

I was watching 24 with Jack Bauer, to save the world. Someone gave us Seasons 1& 2, most intense show. Couldn't watch next show. One time, so intense, terrorist kidnapped secretary of defense and Bauer's girlfriend. Know one knows where they are. Bauer found location. We don't have five minutes. He goes in alone. There's guys everywhere. As I am watching, I realize this is Season 2, there's already Season 5. My heart settled down. Took some of the thrill. You know how it ends. That's how we know it ends. There is Season 3,000 with God. No more death, sickness. Sent His Son forever living. We live life differently.

We have an eternal perspective. I look at the way the world is, I am not afraid. I started looking at everything differently. My Mom and Dad were the time I was 12. That's why I got into ministry. High school I went into ministry. Life is a vapor. It's not that big a deal. I want to talk to people about Christ. Once I started teaching people, I became equally concerned with people who attend church Sunday. I was concerned people I saw sitting in seats every weekend. Jesus taught salvation is through Him and Him alone. Nothing I could do to save myself. It's on Jesus. He paid for my crimes. I also see if a person puts all of trust in Jesus, his life will change radically.

Paul tells "I know He called you. Turned from idols." Thessalonians. People say "not everyone changes." Are you kidding me? Why the world criticized the church. This one verse terrifies me Matthew 7:21, "not everyone who says Lord, Lord will enter the Kingdom of heaven." "Depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." Jesus says, "I never knew you."

I just started getting scared. Don't just raise your hand. Pray the prayer. Take up your cross. Deny yourself. My heart is heavy, a heavy message. I want to know that you are for real. They may fill up a shopping bag of food, I tithe....Do you know Him? The Bible talks about the H.S. comes into your life "Spirit cries out Abba, Father." I know you are in love with Him. See the fruit of your life. I know I am confident in His love. I look at these passages and I get concerned.

Sometimes we almost feel confident when we are in the majority. V. 13 "Enter by the narrow gate. Gate is narrow and way is hard that leads to life." When has everyone been right? Can you think of one time in human history where the majority is right?

Wide easy road. Whenever I do something that's popular, I get scared. Few will find it. Fame, acceptance, is the wide road. Watch Tom and Jerry-change the sign, switch the signs. Everyone goes to heaven. Memorial service, guy goes to hell? This is all that matters. Tons of people go to church. I get concerned. It's so hard not to go with the flow and the general teaching today.

Book of Revelation. Revelation 2 and 3 Jesus wrote personal letters to them. Like written to your church. What will Jesus say? Jesus talked about what He liked and didn't like. "Few of you are holding on..." Revelation 3 in Sardis, "Strengthen what remains and is about to die." I see the areas that I am slipping.

I used to preach fearlessly. Man-pleasing. Strengthen your first love. These are letters for us. Laodicia feels like our country. Around the world, that feels like America. "I know your deeds, you are neither cold nor hot." V. 15. Because you are neither cold or hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. You are not anti-Jesus. You are lukewarm. What if I lived in that city? Living minimal Christianity. How do you know you are lukewarm? Would I know enough to look in the Word, it's like when I went to Hong Kong and Grandma took me and my relatives would say, "Wow, he's so big!" I didn't have the heart to say "You are so tiny!" If everyone is lukewarm, you look like a spiritual giant. Terrifying verse.

Are you kidding me? I don't believe there is such a thing as a lukewarm Christian. Vomited out. Disgusting to me. "For you say, I am rich. You are wretched, poor, pitiable, blind and naked." Is that what Jesus calls me? Those are not what He says about Christians. I want you to clothe yourselves. Be zealous and repent.

You don't get it. "You are disgusting." When someone understands the kingdom of God-Take everything I have." I can have God, sits on His Throne. I will give it all to Jesus. God can make you truly rich, so you can see, walk in all purity. V. 20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock" "I'll grant Him to sit on His throne. God says, " You don't get it." I'm knocking. Can you hear my voice? You've never had a real relationship with me. "I want to change everything." I want to give you this power. "Daddy, Abba, Father..." Let me in. I'll change everything.

He who has an ear, let him hear what I have to say to the churches. How can you casually say "I'm lukewarm." Jesus says, "Listen!" Sometimes God sets them up, Acts 17, puts you in a certain place so that you may feel your way and actually find Him."

I know some of you have grown up in church, and are ready to let go. Jesus did really die on that cross for me. I need to repent of my ways and follow Him. Peter said, "People were cut to the heart and said, 'What can I do to be saved?' And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Maybe some of you are ready for that. You need to get right with God.