

Some Lessons On 9-11

Luke 13:1-5

I. The Reality of Evil

- Contrary to those who know the word of God, the concept of “evil” is less and less commonplace in a morally relativistic culture.
 - Word like “sin”, “evil”, “and immoral” are novel to most.
 - On 9-11 the word “evil” made an appearance to describe what took place. (Politicians and news media)
- God’s has always clearly distinguished between what is good and what is evil.
 - Defines: I Jn. 3:4; 5:17; Js. 4:17; Sources: Jn. 8:44; I Pet. 5:8
 - Specifically identifies: Rev. 21:8; Prov. 6:16-19; I Cor. 6:9-10
 - Tells us what our attitude must be: Rom. 12:9; Eph. 5:11; Isa. 5:20
- Inconsistency in the identification and condemnation of evil.

II. The Sovereignty of God

- God is supreme – is on the throne of the universe.
 - Regardless on our temporal circumstances – our personal lives or national calamity.
 - Scriptures:
 - Rev. 4:2-11 → The throne scene.
 - Dan. 4:32 → the Most High rules in the kingdoms of men...
 - Ps. 33:8-22 → ...blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.
 - Rev. 17:14 → ...they that are with him are called and chosen and faithful.
 - We don’t know what the future may hold, but we know who hold the future.

III. The Most Important Things In Life Are Not Things

- So much of what the world lives for, strives for, accumulates, values is so insignificant.
 - Sinful pursuits
 - Things not evil in and of self, but wrongly ordered in our priorities
- The conversations of those whose lives were soon to end.
 - Expressions of love, concerns for family, prayer, Bible reading, forgiveness...
 - How would our lives change if we knew death were imminent? What would we emphasize? Put less emphasis on? (Lk. 10:42; Matt. 6:33; Phil. 3:13)

IV. The Need To Do Right Regardless Of The Consequences...

- The most challenging of circumstances provide great opportunities
 - Those in Bible times who did the right thing in hard situations:
 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (Dan. 3)
 - Daniel. (Dan. 1:8)
 - Stephen, James, John the baptist
 - We need the courage to do what is right in spite of the temporal results:
 - Stand for truth. (I Pet. 3:15; Jude 3)
 - Teach the lost. (Mk. 16:15; Eph. 4:15)
 - Restore the erring. (Gal. 6:1-2)
 - Resist evil. (James 4:4-7)
 - Matt. 10:28
 - No one has a greater work or greater challenges than a child of God.

V. A Sense Of Our Own Mortality

- The uncertainty of life as seen in the events of 9-11. How many had thoughts of death as they began their day?
- We must be mindful of the brevity of life and the certainty of death. (Heb. 9:27; Js. 4:13-15; Ps. 90:9-12)
- Certainties of life: Death, Second Coming of Jesus, Resurrection, Judgment, Eternity