

There’s A Great Day Coming

INTRODUCTION:

A. **TRUE STORY:** Andersen, Indiana, a number of years ago. Hotly contested basketball championship playoff game in the O. C. Lewis Gymnasium. Nothing seemed more important that night than that game. Describe the opposing crowds. Close scoring event.

The game was quickly coming to an end with but three minutes left in the game, and the visiting team two points ahead. Suddenly, a referee called a foul on a member of the visiting team. That gave the home town player a chance to step up to the foul line and tie the game. As he stepped up to the foul line, everybody hushed. It became what we might call, “deathly quiet.” Before he attempted his first free throw, a referee standing behind him suddenly collapsed to the gym floor. There was the “ooh” that grabbed the player’s attention. As he looked around he saw the fallen official, and within a few seconds a number of the players and others had rushed to the official’s aid. Some adults that were in the stands rushed there as well. In a minute or so they carried the official from the gym. He was such a well know man, liked and loved by people wherever he went. The game stopped while people waited to see what was the matter. About three minutes after he had been taken out of the gymnasium, the announcement came over the PA system that he was dead.

1. Dead! What had happened? Was it his heart? Was the pressure too much. Dead! Who would have thought it?
2. Because he was so well liked and loved by so many, they couldn’t go on with the game. They stopped the game at that point, and people began leave the gymnasium.
3. What had just minutes before been such an exciting game and such an exciting environment, suddenly didn’t seem that important at all. People left in silence as if they were living a mortuary . . . a funeral home.
4. Every once and a while there seems to be something that slaps us in the face, making us aware that life is short . . . and that life is so very short.
 - a. That we think what is important . . . Isn’t.
 - b. And what we don’t think about very much . . . turns out to be important.
 - c. It is as if cold water has been thrown in our faces, and our whole list of priorities seems to change.

B. **TRUE STORY:** It happened in a northeastern city (a rather large one in the United States)

that a man, in his depression, decided that he was going to take his own life. He went into his apartment in a rather run down shabby apartment building in

a rundown part of that large northeastern city, walking through the doorway realizing that would be the last time he would pass through that door alive, he closed the gas heater, pulled off the rubber hose and turned on the gas jet. Then he went over to the bed behind him and sat down on it, then later laid down on it. As he was breathing in those noxious fumes, his ears began to ring, and thinking that the gas jet was getting louder and thinking someone walking by the door might hear it and alert someone that would come in and save his life, which is exactly what he did not want to happen. In order to drown out the sound of the spewing gas, he reached over and turned on the radio set that was on the table beside his bed, and the first words he heard were these: “Are you ready to meet your God?” It shocked him . . . it stunned him . . . he had not thought about that. He sat up, then he got up and rushed back over to the window, unlocked it, and pushed it up. Then he turned off that gas jet. It had saved his life.

1. You know, it is when we are forced to confront God that we find ourselves startled.
2. It is the wise ones who decide they must deal with God now before God deals with them on judgment day.
3. What we decide we are going to do with Jesus Christ now, will determine how Jesus will deal with us on a day that is coming.
4. There is a great day coming! Are you ready?
 - a. If the Lord were to come right now, would that be all right with you?
 - b. If the Lord were to come right now, would you know for sure, nothing doubting that you are prepared to go with Him?
5. There are only two places that people will go—Heaven or Hell?
6. Are you ready to meet God?
7. Let’s go to the Bible and see that there is a great day coming.

THERE’S A GREAT DAY COMING

- A. **Acts 17:31** - “. . . He (God) has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained . . . “
- B. **Hebrews 9:27** - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”
 1. Someone has said:
 - You can laugh God out of your schools.
 - You can laugh God out of your books.
 - You Can laugh God out of your life.
 - But, you cannot laugh God out of your death.
 2. **ILLUSTRATION:** Grandfather talking to his grandson. He asked him when he was going to graduate from high school. He said this spring.
 - a. The grandfather asked “What are you going to do then?” The grandson said, “I want to go to college.”

- b. The grandfather asked what then. He said, “I want to become a doctor, so I will have go on to medical school.”
 - c. Persistently, the grandfather asked “What then?” He said, well I will have to complete my residency.
 - d. The grandfather asked, “What then?” “We’ll I guess I will begin my medical practice.”
 - e. The grandfather asked, “What then?” The grandson said, “Well I guess I will settle down, get married, and have a family.”
 - f. The grandfather again asked, “What then?” Well, I suppose I will live, grow old, and die.
 - g. The grandfather again asked, “What then?” Well, I suppose that I will go meet my God.”
 - h. The grandfather said, “Well I was wondering when you were going to fit Him you your schedule of life.”
3. When are you going to fit God into your life.
 4. What we decide do with Jesus Christ today, will determine what, one day, He will do with us
- C. Some pertinent facts about what is going to happen on that great day that is coming.
1. **We will all be there.** Everybody will be there.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 5:10** - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
 - b. There are some who think they will miss that day . . . but they won’t
 - c. There are some who think they will sleep forever . . . but they won’t
 - d. **John 5:28-29** - “. . . The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”
 - e. John Bunyan said a long time ago: “When wicked persons have gone on in a course of sin, and find they have reason to fear the just judgment of God, for their sins, they begin at first to wish there were no God to punish them; then by degrees they persuade themselves that there is none, and then they set themselves to study arguments to back up their opinion.” Notice the regressive steps he mentions.
 - f. **Romans 14:10-12** - “. . . We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
 For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."
 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”
 2. **All will be revealed.** There is nothing that will be hidden from God.

- a. **Romans 2:16** - “. . . God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”
1. Do you have any secrets that no body else knows about?
 - a. Not mommy.
 - b. Not daddy.
 - c. Not your spouse.
 - d. Not your children.
 - e. Not your friends.
 - d. Not the elders.
 - e. Not the minister.
 - f. Not anyone.
 2. Do you have any secret things tucked away in your closet?
 3. Do you have any of those centerfold magazines hid away where no one but you will find them?
 4. Do you have any secrets? Let me tell you, the day is coming when all your secrets will be out in the open . . . under the spotlight, unless they are covered only by the blood of Christ and hidden only in His precious blood.
 5. Are you ready to meet your God?
- b. **Hebrews 4:13** - “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”
1. Everything is open to Him.
 2. Nothing will be missed by Him.
 3. Everything we think, say, or do is open before His holy eyes.
 4. We must give an account of the things we have done. **Revelation 20:12-13** - “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”
 5. We must also give account of things we have said.
 - a. Have you ever thought about reading an entire library?
 - b. Have you ever thought about writing an entire library?
 1. Did you know that everyday you are doing that in the form of a new page in a new book. And as you complete that book for that year, it is as if the Lord places that year on a shelf. Then we begin the new year with a new book.
 2. Every thing you say, every thing you think, everything you do is in your life’s library.

3. The day is going to come when God is going to open up your library, the one you have written with you life, and He is going to judge you by the things written there.
4. Don’t you want God to read the library of your life looking through the blood of Christ?
- c. **Matthew 12:36** - “. . . For every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”
6. We must give an account of the very intents of our hearts . . .what we think.
 - a. **Matthew 5:28** - “. . . Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
 - b. **1 John 3:15** - “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”
 - c. Whether you lust after a woman or commit the physical act of adultery, it is the same thing with God.
 - d. Whether you take a gun and shoot your brother to death or a knife and stab him to death, or just simply hate him, it is the same thing in God’s eyes.
 - e. So, we are going to have to give an account of:
 1. The things we have done.
 2. The things we have said.
 3. The things we have thought.
 - f. You see, **God wants us from the inside out** . . . not just our actions. He wants our will . . . He wants our hearts . . . He wants all of us.
3. **God’s Word will judge us.**
 - a. **ILLUSTRATION:** In the Swiss capital building there hangs a painting painted by a man named Paul Robert. It’s title is “Justice Instructing the Judges.” In the picture, in the fore ground are the litigants; the wife against the husband and the architect against the builders. Over them stands the Swiss judges in their little white dickies, and the question becomes, ‘How are they going to judge?’ Now normally you see Miss Justice with her eyes blindfolded and her sword held vertically, but in this particular picture the blindfold off and totally gone, and her sword is tipped toward the floor, and the tip of that sword is resting on a book. Now, on the outside of the book are the words, “The Word of God.”
 - b. Pure Justice points to the Word of God.
 - c. Here is pure justice for all the ages and for all people—The Word of God.
 - d. God’s book of justice . . . the Word of God . . . will be there on that last day.

- e. **It is here with us today for us to live by . . . it will be there on that last day for us to be judged by.** (Repeat)
 - e. Friends, the books we have written by our lives (what we have done, said, and thought) will be opened and examined by and compared to the Word of God.
4. **All will stand alone.**
- a. **Romans 14:12** - “. . . Each of us shall give an account of himself to God.”
 - b. There will be no place to run away to . . . no one to hide behind. You will stand alone (by yourself) before the great Judge.
 - c. If you are lost, there will be no one to defend you and speak for the accused. Only if you are a Christian, will Christ and His blood stand up for you.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We have all had narrow escapes of one type or another.
1. Jesus said in **Matthew 25:13** - “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour . . .”
 2. We may not have the rest of this day . . . nor live to see another sunrise.
 3. A number of years ago on December 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 exploded in the skies above Lockerbie, Scotland killing all 259 people aboard and an additional 11 people on the ground. Data in the plane’s little black box revealed that the total destruction of the aircraft took only one sixteenth millisecond. Now, it took longer for the debris to fall several thousands of feet to the ground, but the actual death and destruction took place in one-sixth of one second. Those people did not even know what hit them. They were in eternity before they knew they were going to die. One second they were strapped into their airline seats, the next one-sixth of a second later they were in eternity. Not time to draw one more breath . . . not time for one more heartbeat.
- B. Friends, the Lord is going to come that quickly . . . Are you ready?
1. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on **those who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”
 2. **Amos 4:12** - “. . . Prepare to meet your God . . .”
- C. **Man’s way leads to a hopeless end! God’s way leads to an endless hope!** Which way do you want, a hopeless end or an endless hope?
- D. God’s plan for your salvation has not changed . . . but you must.
- E. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation.**