



4.5.20 Pulpit Curriculum: The Crown of Consequence

Main passage: Luke Chapter 13, verses 1-5

1. **Tragic Events** -- Tragedy abounds. Suffering and death are reality. In light of that, is God fair and good? Jesus' words should be a source of great help, clarity, and comfort. Jesus pivots away from the perceived need toward the real problem. *If you stand with a bucket of water over a grease fire, will you do any good to pour it on the fire?* No, you need to see the problem correctly to hope to survive the problem successfully.
2. **Powerful Pivot to Clarity** -- Circumstances obscure. We must do what's necessary to protect ourselves from COVID-19, but this crisis is really about Personal Preparedness for Eternity. Please heed Jesus' instructions. Pivot away from earthly pains and fears. Turn to the ultimate and eternal.

Q: What should we be praying about?

Q: Who are we praying for?

3. **The True Threat** -- The sinfulness of men is the true existential threat to humanity. Alienation from God is the greatest threat. Sin is the greatest concern.
Isaiah 1:5-6, 11-16
Romans 3:9-18

4. **Final Judgment** -- Physical death is awful; final judgment is far worse. If we are holy, we are well.
Matt. 10:28
Ezekiel 18:4
Deut. 7:9-11

We may be crushed, but just as long as we are not objects of His Almighty (and deserved) displeasure. *Lord, give us peace with you, through Christ!*

Q: What is the spiritual threat against you right now? It may be sneaking up on you, or it may already have launched its attack. Is it anxiety? Despair? Anger? Selfishness? Lack of discipline? Or something else altogether?

Q: What does God want you to focus on? What is the Holy Spirit directing you toward? How does He want you to use this opportunity to not just avoid defeat, but to gain a victory for the Kingdom of God?

Meditation Questions

1. What is the worst possible outcome of the COVID Crisis?
2. What does Jesus want you to focus on instead of the physical threats?
3. Which of those spiritual are the greatest threats to you?
4. How does someone prepare for the final judgment? Do you know that you are ready?

Scripture Guide

Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 26:36-46

Matthew 27:27-44

Prayer Guide

Romans 13:1-4

Leaders and Governing officials

Praying for their salvation, for them to act and govern in wisdom, for their character, and their health during this unprecedented time. Praying for local leaders, national officials, and praying for leaders around the world.

Matthew 6:33

Those who have lost their jobs

Pray for Christians who have been left unemployed due to the pandemic. Pray that the financial trial would drive unbelievers to Christ, the source of all provision.

John 15:13

Soldiers/Military

Pray for those selfless servants who are deployed. Pray for their families who are stateside. Pray for those laboring diligently in-country. pray for their physical protection. Pray for the peace of God to blanket the hearts of Christian military families. Pray that their selflessness and sacrifice would be used to point others to Christ