

“I’d Rather Die”

Scripture - Eph. 6:10-13

Opening Song #508 Anywhere With Jesus

Intro- the science experiment at PAS (STEM). Science, technology, engineering and math.

1. The STEM program. The purpose is to open young minds to learning about new things.
2. What can we learn from this? It shows that there are powerful forces that are at work, that may not be visible to our eyes. Because we cannot see them, does not mean that they do not exist. This is also true in the spiritual realm (Eph. 6:10-13).

A. Review of the message two weeks ago, “The Blind Leading the Blind”.

1. Many of the issues that are in the news today show there are current leaders that are trying to solve some of the problems in this world by legislative actions and it is causing quite a stir in the news.
2. Jesus laid down some guidelines when he dealt with leaders in his day.
 - a. He called them “blind leaders of the blind” because what they were proposing did not lead anyone to the real solution that was needed.
 - b. He also called them “hypocrites” because they taught many things but did not even follow their own rules that they laid down for others.
 - c. They searched the scriptures but their search did not lead them to accepting of Him as the Messiah.
3. Maybe one of the most important things that we can learn by looking at Jesus remarks about the blind guides is our need to stay focused on the work that He has called us to do for Him, as a church, and as individuals. If we do this, we just might be ready, and help others be ready, when He returns, in spite of the chaos around us.

B. Examining the events prior to the crucifixion

1. The resurrection of Lazarus (Jn. 11).
 - a. Even his enemies recognized His power (Jn. 11:47).
 - b. If we don’t resist the drawing of the Holy Spirit we will be drawn to God (Jn. 11:48).
 - c. If you allow the Holy Spirit into your life you will be changed but only God can accurately predict what that will be (Jn. 11:48; Isa. 42:9; 46:10).
2. The triumphal entry (Mt. 21:1-11; Mk. 11:1-10; Lk. 19:29-44; Jn. 12:12-19; DA p569).
 - a. From Lazarus’ house Jesus begins his journey towards Jerusalem. When He seats himself upon a donkey’s colt the people recognize this as a fulfillment of prophecy and enthusiastically support Him as the Messiah, by shouting hosanna and waving palm branches along the way (Mk. 11:1-11)
3. Pausing for reflection Jesus weeps for the city (Lk. 19:41-44). They rejected Him as the Messiah (Jn. 1:11) and what He wanted to give them (Eze. 36:26-27); and by doing so they choose death and destruction (Mt. 23:37-39; Jn. 5:39-40).

C. What Can We Learn?

1. Repentance can be a hard thing as we see from several different sources in #2 below.
2. There are many that say, “I would rather die”.
 - a. The spiritual leaders in Jesus’ day (Jn. 5:39-40).
 - b. The lost at the end of time (Rev. 6:15-16; 16:8-11).
 - c. Those that are saved at the end of time (Rev. 12:10-11; Eph. 4:30;).
 - d. There is another... The One that wept over Jerusalem (Lk. 19:41-44; Prov. 8:36; Eze. 33:11).

D. Appeal (Eph. 6:10-13; Jn. 15:13).