

FRIDAY - What does God speak to Death? Heaven? Resurrection
Flag Week.2013

Friday AM, 5-10 minutes.-----

Welcome to FRIDAY. :))

What Jesus says to YOU.

- Instruments SPEAK. Listen.
 - Eg. Of training with flight HOOD.
 - Train to pay attention.
 - How? Read the Bible.
 - Read the Red.
 - So helpful. Pick a chapter and read that one every day.
 - Be with Believers.
 - Join the Bride of Christ, the Church, and see how special she is.

- Spoke to young ladies.
 - Please, listen to Father God. He loves you.

 - Don't believe the lies.
 - If you have listened to lies, seek help.
 - If that struck a nerve, speak with someone about it.

 - Young men.
 - Don't you DARE lie to them.
 - BTW, every time you look at porn, you LIE TO THEM.
 - You tell them they're only good for one thing.
 - YOU MUST STOP.
 - It will ruin you.
 - And when you get married, you will destroy her.

What Jesus says to EVIL.

- In the face of temptation, I will worship the Lord my God. I will serve only Him.
- In the face of doubt, I will worship the Lord my God. I will serve only Him.
- In the face of discouragement, I will worship the Lord my God. I will serve only Him.

- It is a key. Let it enter your vocabulary, and change your life.

What Jesus says to DEATH.

- Basically. You Lose!
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- What Jesus speaks to death is a WAKE UP CALL!
 - Stop sleeping.
 - Remember Eternity.
 - Death didn't STOP Jesus.
 - Death isn't going to stop ME.
 - Death doesn't have to stop you either!
- Provide time and space...
 - If something hit you this week.
 - There will be a time and space to process.
 - Maybe you want to follow Jesus...
 - I hope you do.
 - He's sort of a big deal.

INTRO

- Good afternoon. Hey, it's FRIDAY!
- Honor Family
 - Without Elizabeth, I'm a pile of mess.
 - Hesitated with EPIC, FLAG Week
 - She kicked me in the pants...DO IT!
 - She loves me, and she loves my children, very very well.
 - She's awesome. THANK HER WITH ME.

JUMP RIGHT IN.

Of Prime Importance – WHAT JESUS SPOKE TO DEATH

- Pertaining to death, what did Jesus Say?
 - Of all the truths that have the power to change the way we think,
 - This one is paramount.
 - The way you think about death will change the way you live.
- In short...
 - Death isn't the end.
 - Death will be defeated.

-PRAY RIGHT NOW.

- Will look at Early Believers, how they acted in the face of Death.
- Will look at what Jesus said.
 - How did he change the way they thought?

Early Believers

- This belief, this remembrance, in the ultimate defeat of death...
 - Fueled their faith
 - Animated their every action.
 - In similar (but opposite) fashion, I believe...
 - Our failure to remember the reality of eternity has
 - DEFLATED our faith and
 - LOCKED Christianity into a sort of “survival” mentality. We’re just trying NOT to die (us and our churches). Ted Dekker, Christian author, calls this the “Slumber of Christianity.” Good book, by the way (not fiction)
- Do we “continually anticipate” this reality? (1 Thess 1:3)
 - Paul once wrote to a church, grateful for *their 1) faithful work, their 2) loving deeds, and their 3) continual anticipation of the return of Christ.*
 - It occurs to me that
 - We often speak about loving people, and
 - We occasionally talk about faithfulness, but
 - We seldom, if ever, speak of the return of Christ. WHY NOT?
 - **Instead of remembering the reality of Christ's imminent return, we simply forget to mention it.**

Could it ever be said of us that we "continually anticipate" the return of Christ? Perhaps we should seek to change that.

- Stephen (Acts 7:54-56)
 - In the process of being killed. Why? He followed Jesus.

⁵⁴ *The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage.* ⁵⁵ *But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily*

into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand.⁵⁶ And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"

- In other words, Stephen pointed up, and said,
 - "Guys, seriously, I'm going THERE! This is not the end for me!"
 - And then he "died."
 - Sense his excitement! Not normal death row vision.

What Jesus Says to Death

- **John 11** EXPLAIN Jesus speaking to grieving sisters.
 - Not a cake walk. Not tea time. @funeral!
 - Women who just lost brother, provider?
 - Friend of Jesus?

(23) "Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."²⁴ "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."²⁵ Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[e] Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

- Do you remember this? Often?
- Do you believe this?
- Let these spoken words of Christ change the way you think.
 - "Everyone who lives in me and believes in me WILL NEVER DIE."

Another Example of the Power of R&R

- **John 8:14** EXPLAIN Jesus spoke hard things to powerful people. How?
 - Son of a carpenter, no formal education (unlike Pharisees! Lawyers).

¹⁴ *Jesus told them, "These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don't know this about me."*

- What changes in your life if you remember who you are (Wed.) and where you're going (Friday)
 - You know anticipation can change everything!
 - For example, I know that I'm going to MIKE'S BURGER tonight!

- That changes something. :)

- Again, **Hebrews 12:2**

- POWER in knowing where you're going.
- Why I say the church gets LOCKED when we forget.

"Because of the joy^[b] awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne."

BREAK.

Why am I doing this?

If we remember this, if we hear what Jesus says, He will change our minds...and lives.

- **John 16**, Jesus, confusing the disciples again. Poor guys. Always confused.
 - Perpetual state of confusion. Duh... ;)

¹⁹ *Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, "Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won't see me, but a little while after that you will see me again."* ²⁰ *I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy.* ²¹ *It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world.* ²² *So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.* ²³

- "A little while after that."
- "I will see you again."
- "No one can rob you of that joy."

- GUYS, WE HAVE TO GET THIS.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:55** mean anything?

Death is swallowed up in victory.^[k]
⁵⁵ *O death, where is your victory?*
O death, where is your sting?^l

- Cannot afford to forget this.
- We want to truly be transformed?
 - Truly going to let God change the way we think...
 - Remember Reality.
 - **Jesus beat death down.**

When he looked down for the count, he got a “second wind” so to speak, and he’s...coming back.

LAST WORDS

- SCENE – Crucifixion. Not looking so good.
 - In the face of death, Jesus has a conversation (Luke 23:43)

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” ⁴³ And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

- TODAY? “Umm, Jesus, today’s not looking so good for you, man.”
- Picture the scene. Dying, hanging next to each other.
 - NOT a couple of buddies sitting and chatting over a ZENYA and a MARS bar.
 - They didn’t meet for a frappacino at Jars of Clay.
 - NO, they’re being tortured, dying. And Jesus says, “Hey, I’ll see ya soon...in PARADISE.”
 - Paradise is a big word if you’re dying!
 - **παράδεισος** **paradeisos** (par-ad'-ei-sos) [n](#).
 - **1. a park**
 - **2. (specially), an Eden (place of future happiness, "paradise")**

Again, let these Words transform you by changing the way you think!

- I know you’re teenagers.
- I know teenagers don’t typically think about “The End of All Things.”
- I know it’s hard to think past tomorrow, or Mike’s Burger
 - BUT WE MUST.
 - I BELIEVE GOD WANTS TO WAKE HIS CHURCH UP TO THE REALITY OF ETERNITY.

- How?
 - Read about Heaven, let me know if you want book recommendations!
 - Listen to music about Heaven
 - Talk with each other about heaven.
 - Often speak of heaven
 - I wonder what it will be like?
 - I wonder what we'll do?
 - Usually after parkour video or extreme sports video
 - "OK, kids, that's awesome, but you can't do that until heaven."

Final Story, WRAP UP.

- When my mom was sick with cancer (I was 17years old, many of you!), every night, say,
 - "Goodnight, mom, I love you, I'll see you in the morning."
- In coma, out of it, home to die.
 - The NIGHT SHE DIED my dad woke me up to come downstairs, you know what I said, Kissed her on forehead and said, "Goodnight mom, I love you, I'll see you in the morning."
 - And when I spoke at her FUNERAL, you know what I said, "Goodnight mom, I love you, I'll see you in the morning."

- Because Jesus says that MORNING is coming.

- Paradise is just around the corner, with New Heaven and New Earth.
- Close as tomorrow. No, close as TODAY.

- When Jesus challenged death, he was challenging Satan and all evil.

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- If he could beat this, he'd win. And you know what, he did. He wins. Death dies

- Resurrection means something!

- Let the words of Jesus change what you think. Let his words about death change how you live your life.

THERE IS HOPE

- This glorious future, this Hope, is there for all who trust in Christ.
- Don't want to give you false hope.

- If you don't follow Jesus, this HOPE is not for you. BUT IT CAN BE!
- **Turn from sin to the Savior.**
 - Believe what he said. Let His words transform you.
 - Decide, by faith today, to Worship the One True God, and serve Him Alone.
- Perhaps this week, God has begun to change the way you think about some things.
- Perhaps, prior to this week, you weren't sure about God.
- Perhaps you need to admit that you're a mess and you desperately need him.

If you're at that place, I'd like to encourage you, implore you, GIVE UP and BECOME HIS.

- Grab a hold of HOPE. His name is Jesus.
- _____
- Space provided.

Don't live another day without Hope. Follow Jesus.

Wrap it up with this, an Echo of Jesus' Words.

- Remember this Reality.
- Excerpts from Death Be Not Proud, by John Donne

72. TITLE: "**Death be not proud**"

DEATH be not proud, though some have called you
Mighty and dreadful, for, you are not so,
For those whom you think you overthrow,
Die not, poor death, nor can you kill me.

You are slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and desperate men,
 And with poison, war, and sickness dwell, 10
 And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well,
 And better than your stroke; why swell then?

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
 And death shall be no more; DEATH, YOU SHALL DIE.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

This is my prayer for you, that you would let God transform you by changing the way you think.

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

¹⁴ When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ^[e] ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ^[f] ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Thank you, go with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What's been the greatest takeaway for you this week? What do you think God was trying to say to you this week?
- When Jesus speaks of life's greatest threat, what does he say?
- If you're the other guy on the cross, what do Jesus' words mean to you?
- What happens if we fail to remember the reality of eternity?
- List two things we could do for each other to help each other Remember this Reality?