

and even in our own lives, We should be looking up to the Lord who loves us and asking Him how we should respond. (**Springs Lighthouse**)

Biblical Principle: In the midst of a sinful society, and in the midst of our own struggle, we can seek the glory of God and the good of others. We can live life in a fashion that honors the Lord; we can pray for our communities and our nation, and we can seek its peace!

?Question: What does God want us to think about living in oppression?

DO | What are you going to do about it?

Mark 12:31

Love your neighbor as yourself.

- **Because we love our neighbor, we work for just laws, for righteousness and justice, for the protection of human life – for the good of our neighbors in all things** It's something you do — with a heart that leads people to the greatest example of love this world has ever seen. There are three simple lessons on how to love your neighbor we can learn from the Samaritan.
 - 1- **See People.** Whether they move in next door or cross your path for just a moment, stop and see the person in front of you. Ask God to help you see them not for who they appear to be, but in Whose image, they are created — no matter where they're from, what they look like or what they believe.
 - 2- **Do Something.** When you see a need, don't keep walking. Stop and do something, even a small act of kindness. The Samaritan put differences aside to care for the stranger and get him the help he needed. You might not have the money to pay for someone's medical care, as the Samaritan did, but you do have unique gifts, skills and insights that no one else can bring. How can you use them to help the neighbor God placed in your path?
 - 3- **Live.** In the story, the Samaritan didn't just drop the traveler off at an inn. He made sure that he was taken care of for the entire course of his healing. Loving our neighbor well isn't a one-time act.

Biblical Principle: **Living** is a lifestyle — one that proves compassion and points back to Jesus every single time. [HUA \(Compassion\)](#)

?Question:? What neighbor are you loving – what are you to do??!!

Application: What is your ministry to your neighbor – political or ??

-----**Stories from the Field**-----

The Gathering Storm places us in the center of a battle of ideas- worldviews, and we will be here until Jesus comes. The storm is real, and it cannot be avoided. Over time, every culture conforms, in general terms, to one worldview!! The one true God is Lord over history, and He has now called Christians in this generation into the storm. For, only the Christian worldview is sufficient to answer the demand of secularism.

Silence in this age is not an option – silence and retreat are tantamount to failure. Believers in Jesus Christ possess the gospel, as well as the power of the Holy Spirit. Obedience to Christ demands our faithful stewardship, careful thinking, and wise engagement in the midst of this pressing crisis.

Three massive Christian virtues mark our way: Faith Hope and Love

Faith: in the secular age, we must display our faith in three ways; **faith in God's design, Faith in God's Word, and Faith in the power of the gospel.** 1-**Faith** in this Christian world view must lead to showing the glory of God's design and the only pathway to human flourishing. But our faith must not just tell the truth but *model the truth by living faithfully within God's design.* 2- **Truth:** we are in a long and sustained *battle for the full truthfulness and authority of Scripture in the church.* The truthfulness of the Bible is crucial to the church standing constant and consistent as the world around us constantly changes it moral compass. God has given the church all we need in order to be faithful. 3- **Gospel Power:** Faith in the Gospel means faith in Jesus salvation for all who believe. *Christians cannot succumb to any political messianism.* The Christian worldview underlines the importance of politics and government – rooted in the sovereignty of God and the command to love our neighbor.



Men of Valor

Gathering Storm #10

Biblical Manhood: To love and follow Jesus by being Men of the Word and Men of Prayer while Accepting Accountability, Taking Responsibility, Leading Intentionally, Persevering through Adversity in their domain to make God Known

Our hope is actually our confidence in Christ. For Christ and His glory, we are able to make a difference in this world. God has a purpose for us here and now! Our hope also frees us from putting ultimate hope in anything or anyone other than Christ.

Christian Love is substantial. It takes the form of commitment. **Christians are commanded to love one another and to work for the good of God’s glory in this fallen world. This means that Christians do have a political responsibility and that politics does matter!!** *Because we love our neighbor, we work for just laws, for righteousness and justice, for the protection of human life – for the good of our neighbors in all things.*

Talk about it:

Question for contemplation and discussion: What did God enlighten to you in the text?

KNOW | What does God want us to know

1 Cor 13:13

So now Faith, Hope and Love abide, the greatest of these is love.

- **Christians are commanded to love one another and to work for the good of God’s glory in this fallen world. This means that Christians do have a political responsibility and that politics does matter!**
- **Without love, all that you give is insignificant.** *“If I give all I possess to the poor . . . but do not have love, I gain nothing”* (1 Corinthians 13:3 NIV). There are all kinds of motivations for giving, including obligation or prestige or guilt. Just because you give doesn’t mean you’re doing it in love. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.
- **Without love, all that you accomplish is inadequate.** *“If I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn’t love others, it would be of no value whatever”* (1 Corinthians 13:3 TLB). You can have all kinds of great accomplishments. You can even sacrifice your life for the greatest cause in the world—the Kingdom of God—but without love, it’s wasted effort.

- You can have the eloquence of an orator, the knowledge of a genius, the faith of a miracle worker, the generosity of a philanthropist, and the dedication of a martyr. But if you don’t love, it doesn’t count.
- The good news is that you can love others (non-believers, those who disagree with you or even hurt you) because God first loved you.

Biblical Principle: Jesus says that as you live within His love, He will help you to love others. When you draw closer to him, your ability to love will increase—He makes it possible for you to live out the calling to love others. HUA (RW)

? Question: What did you learn about loving people into the Kingdom?

BE | How does God want us to become more like Him?

Jere 29:5

Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their produce.

- **We are to model Gospel living where we have been planted**
- As the Babylonian Empire tightened the screws on Israel, the nation of God’s people, many so-called prophets in Israel began to declare that God was going to deliver Israel and crush the power of Babylon. Only Jeremiah was urging the people to accept this discipline as from the hand of God – that the Lord was using the Babylonians to bring pressure on Israel to turn away from their false gods (gods of privilege, prosperity and sexuality) and return to the true and living God who had brought them into this good land.
- Jeremiah then writes a letter to those of Israel who had already been carried away captive to Babylon basically telling them to remember that **God is in control of their situation, that He has a plan for their future, and that they have an opportunity to serve right where they are: in Babylon!** Captive to a nation steeped in idolatry, they can bear testimony to God’s goodness and graciousness. We can live life in a fashion that honors the Lord; we can pray for our communities and our nation, and we can seek its peace. Often times we as Christ-followers see idolatry all around us, including in the church among God’s people,