

- accomplished, but not how. He knew the world and its cultures would be constantly growing and changing . . . as would the tools available to His followers. Without the help of the printing press, radio, Internet, or even a microphone, those disciples turned the world upside down. Just imagine if all believers today took Jesus’ final words as seriously as the early disciples did!

Biblical Principle: We are to go- whether next store or around the world- and make disciples. It is not an option, it is a command HUA

?Question: Who are you discipling?

DO | What are you going to do about it?

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”

- **We are stewards of the gospel in our cultural context.** Romans is the revelation of God’s righteousness in His plan for salvation, what the Bible calls the gospel. Paul showed how human beings lack God’s righteousness because of our sin (1–3), receive God’s righteousness when God justifies us by faith (4–5), demonstrate God’s righteousness by being transformed from rebels to followers (6–8), confirm His righteousness when God saves the Jews (9–11), and apply His righteousness in practical ways throughout our lives (12–16).
- Roman’s is practical instruction. This union between doctrine and life illustrates for Christians the absolute importance of both what we believe and how we live out those beliefs.

Biblical Principle: The message of Salvation has life changing power for you and others!!! HUA

?Question: Does your day-to-day life mirror the beliefs you hold, are they strong and passionate enough to share in your domain??

Application Challenge: Religious Platforms (Stories from field next)

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

There is a Gathering Storm (years of denial) that presents itself as a tremendous challenge to the faithfulness of the Christian Church – Secularization. Scripture has lost all authority in the culture and Western societies are being progressively “dechristianized.”

Christianity, which forged the moral and spiritual worldview of Western Societies, is being displaced. First step of faithfulness for the Christian is to understand this reality- Facts are better than dreams. The central fact gathering strength is moral liberalism, which cannot be explained without dechristianization of society.

The church is a necessary institution for morality in a well-ordered society. John Adams, our first Chief Justice, said our constitution is for a moral and religious people it is inadequate for any other. Morality can only be effectively maintained and sustained by religion- personal beliefs.

Secular refers to the absence of any binding belief in God of the Bible or His authority. The ideology is secularism and the consequence is secularization. God’s authority hold’s societies together and provides a common morality, a common concept of what it means to be human. **Without His authority – morality becomes a series of secular options.**

American Universities are the engines of the culture consisting of its intellectual elites. They represent a far more radical vision for America and understand its future lies in the youth. A new secular morality is emerging, including a new sexual morality. At the same time, among the millennials, has advanced a **great religious indifference – beliefs and doctrines have become less important.** We are now experiencing a collapse of the religious commitments coupled with the breakdown of a binding moral authority. Christianity is now being rejected or relegated to having no significance in the culture.



Men of Valor

Gathering Storm #1

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

The secular push toward personal autonomy and fulfillment will not stop until the we are completely self-defining. In other words, removing Christ from the throne and putting ourselves on the throne. **As Christians, we must confront the culture. We must be faithful and say and tell what we know to be true. We must protest every false gospel and every erroneous world view that diminishes human flourishing.**

Christians must confront the secular storm with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Nothing will prevail over our God. Nothing can withstand the power of the Gospel. Christians cannot be silent – we are stewards of the Gospel in our cultural context – domain!!

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 Kings 18:20-21

'How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people did not answer him a word. "Don't Limp After Other Gods

- **God's authority hold's societies together and provides a common morality, a common concept of what it means to be human. Without His authority – morality becomes a series of secular options.** Stop being indecisive. You can't live your life halfway between God and idols. What a tragic waste many men make of their lives because they just can't become radically devoted to God. And they can't quite give him up. Maybe the point is: That's hopeless.
- But let me suggest something else going on here. Why use the word "limp," or "hobble around" in verse 21. "How long will you go *limping* or *hobbling*, like you're lame?" That word occurs again in verse 26b when the prophets of Baal are desperate trying to get their god to answer them: "'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and

no one answered. And they limped [they hobbled] around the altar that they had made." I don't think those two uses of the word *limp* or *hobble* are an accident. If you try to get your life — your meaning, your worth, your fire — from anything but the true God, you will be lame all your life. The world may call it a dance. God calls it a limp.

Biblical Principle: If we just drift along with whatever is pleasant and easy, we will someday discover we are worshiping a false God. You must take a stand for the Lord. HUA

?Question: Are you becoming secularized – are you wavering between to opinions?

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

Matt 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them

- **As Christians, we must confront the culture. We must be faithful and say and tell what we know to be true.** If you are a believer and you are not actively participating in fulfilling the Great Commission, you are not obeying the Lord's calling on your life. Nobody gets a pass! Jesus' marching orders are clear, they are not negotiable, and He expects obedient action from each of us.
- **Jesus Spoke to Ordinary People.** The disciples had no kits that they could reach into, pull out the right tool, and do a miracle. They had no halos, wore no uniforms. They hadn't gone to Bible schools, but most had grown up attending synagogues that had their religious schools. Not until the Holy Spirit came on them, did they have any power. They were sinful, unsophisticated, fearful, and uncertain what to do next. They were *ordinary*.
- **Jesus Was Intense about the Mission but Flexible about the Method** - He specified where the mission was to be