

Live like you are dying!

Lesson I: Live like. . . .

Intro:

→ Driving home from a gospel meeting in Fredericksburg, VA

- heard a song by Tim McGraw - *Live like you were dying*
- began to wonder what I would do differently, if I was dying - had a short time left to live
- thought developed into a series

→ pict: tomb of unknown soldier, Arlington Cemetary

- soldiers learn to live like they're dying, in harms way 24/7, get many of them thinking about their mortality, obey gospel

→ This lesson:

- **Title:** Live like you are dying! — as a soldier of Jesus Christ rather than a soldier of the USA
- **Purpose:** remind us of our mortality, that we should live everyday like we are dying (last day to live)

➤ #1 **The Lord teaches us to live each day, as if it's our last.**

→ **Question:** What does the Lord teach us about being ready — die, end of the world?

→ **You have to get ready and stay ready — live each day as if it's our last!**

- **Lk. 12:35-48** Jesus teaching on readiness
 - **vs. 35** explain figures: dressed in readiness, lamps ready
 - **vs. 36** explain illus.: like slave who wait on master, return from wedding feast
 - **vs. 37** reward: master serve slave — cf. Jesus wash apostles feet
- **Application: be dressed in readiness — ready 24/7/365**

➤ → **You may have to stay ready for a long time!**

- **Matt. 25:1-13** parable 10 virgins, readiness with lamps, wedding feast
 - **vs. 2** five prudent and five foolish — if ready, wise / if not ready, foolish
 - **vs. 6** midnight — might have to wait a long time, be prepared for the long haul
 - **vs. 8-9** prudent virgins could not give their oil to foolish — you are the only who can get yourself ready
 - **vs. 11-12** five foolish virgins not ready, no second chance — if you're not ready when we are called to meet the Lord, we'll not get a second chance

➤ ● **1 Th. 4:13-18; 2 Th. 1:6-10**

- **Application: vs. 13 stay alert, death (Lord) come without notice, ready 24/7/364 — live every day likes it's your last**

➤ ● **illus.:** death without notice, ready at all times — **"It Is Well With My Soul"**

- In the **autumn of 1873, Horatio Spafford**, a wealthy Chicago businessman, placed his **wife, Anna, and their four children** on the **Ville du Havre** sailing **from New York to France**. He was forced to stay in the United States for several more weeks to settle some business matters before he could journey to join the family in Europe.
- **About two o'clock** in the morning on November 22, the Ville du Havre was carrying its sleeping passengers over a quiet sea when two terrific claps like thunder were followed by frightening screams. The engine stopped, the ship stood still. Passageways were filled with terrified, half-dressed people shouting questions that no one could answer. The Ville du Havre had been **rammed by the English vessel, the Lochearn**.
- **Mrs. Spafford saw three of her children swept away by the sea while she stood clutching the youngest child**. Suddenly, **she felt her baby torn violently from her arms**. She became **unconscious**. She **awoke later, finding that she had been rescued** by sailors from the Lochearn. But her four children were gone.
- **Horatio Spafford was back in the United States**, desperate to receive news of his family. Finally, the blow fell. A cable arrived from Wales stating that the four daughters were lost at sea, but his wife was still alive. He was **crushed with what had happened**.
- **On the way across the Atlantic to join his wife, the captain announced that they were now passing the place where the Ville du Havre was wrecked**. For Horatio Spafford, this was **passing through the valley of the shadow of death**. He **sat down in his cabin on the high seas**, near the place where his children perished, and **wrote the hymn** that would give comfort to so many, titled **"It Is Well with My Soul."**

- 2
 - **illus.: death without notice, ready at all times**
 - e.g., **Cassie Bernall**, 17 yrs. old, girl, shot at Columbine because she confessed her faith in God, martyred April 20, 1999 about 11:30 AM
 - **asked**, "Do you believe in God?" She **paused** for a second, according to her classmates. And then she **answered**, "Yes."
 - "She was **scared, but she sounded strong**," a friend reported.
 - Staring at her, the gunman asked, "**Why?**" Before she could reply, he **pulled the trigger** and shot her through the temple, killing her instantly. (1999, First Things, August/September 1999: 28-32)

➤ → **Jesus is ready to judge!**

- **1 Pet. 4:5** but **they** (context, people in sin) will **give account to Him** (Jesus) who is **ready to judge the living and the dead**.
- **Application: all things are complete, Jesus is ready to judge, the end could come at any time, must be alert and ready 24/7/365 — live every moment of every day like it's our last**

➤ → **The church is ready for the end of the world, judgment, entrance into it's eternal abode in heaven.**

- **Rev. 19:7** Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His **bride (church) has made herself ready**."
- **Rev. 21:2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **made ready as a bride (church) adorned for her husband (Christ)**.
- **Application: the church is ready to enter its eternal abode, saints from all ages are patiently waiting to enter their final rest, all that remains is the end of the world and final judgment — we must be ready 24/7/365 — live every moment of every day like it's our last**
 - **if you are a faithful member of the Lord's church, you are ready**

→ **Summary / Conclusion:**

- **we must get ready and stay ready, for death, for eternity**
- **we may have to stay ready a long time**
- **Jesus is ready to judge**
- **the church is ready to enter her final above in heaven**
- ● **Are you ready?**

#2 What might you do differently, if you live every day like it was your last?

- → **You might become more spiritual.**
 - **rf. Mk. 8:36-38** gain / forfeit, give in exchange (sell soul devil), ashamed Jesus and word / ashamed of you
 - ● **rf. 1 Jn. 2:15-17** not love world, lust, world passing away, do will of Father and live forever — live like the world is dying
- → **You might think more about your salvation.**
 - more appreciation for **Jesus dying for you**, so you **don't have to die in hell**
 - **rf. 1 Pet. 1:18-19** redeemed precious blood of Jesus
 - ● think more about your **obedience to Jesus**, more about **salvation**
 - **rf. Heb. 5:9** Jesus perfected, became to all who obey Him, source of eternal salvation
 - **rf. Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32-33; Mk. 16:16**
 - ● **rf. Rev. 2:10-11** faithful till death, crown of life, not be hurt by second death (hell)
- → **You might think more about death.**
 - **rf. 2 Cor. 5:1-4** die, building from God, eternal, groan, mortality swallowed up by life
- → **You might think more about judgment.**
 - **rf. Heb. 9:27** die once, judgment
 - ● **rf. 2 Cor. 5:10** all must stand before judgment seat of Christ, recompense
 - ● **rf. 1 Pet. 4:17** judgment start household God, obey gospel of Jesus
- → **You might care more about your daily relationship with the Lord.**
 - **prayer**
 - **rf. Phil. 4:4-6** rejoice always, anxious for nothing, prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
 - **rf. Phil. 4:7** And the **peace of God**, which **surpasses all comprehension**, will **guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus.
 - ● **rf. 1 Th. 5:16-18** rejoice, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks
 - **reading / studying God's word**
 - ● **rf. 1 Tim. 4:13** public reading of Scriptures
 - ● **rf. Acts 17:11** Bereans, searched Scriptures daily to see if what Paul taught was correct
 - **assembling with the saints to be stimulated**
 - ● **rf. Heb. 10:23-25** hold fast confession, stimulate one another to love and good works, not forsake assembly
 - **Lord Supper might be more meaningful**
 - ● **rf. 1 Cor. 11:24-26** body and blood given for our sins, do in remembrance of Jesus, until He comes

- → **You might care more about people - less about things.**
 - all relationships summed up the golden rule - love your neighbor as your self
 - **rf. Matt. 22:39** Jesus states the golden rule
 - **rf. Rom. 13:8** owe no one anything but love - love sums up our relationship with all men
 - **relationships:**
 - care more about **family**
 - care more about **teaching your children to serve God**
 - care more about **respecting your parents**
 - care more about **expressing feelings of love**
 - care more about **making friends than being an enemy**
 - care more about being a **good boss / employee**
 - care more about being a **good teacher / student**
 - care more about being a **good citizen / community leader**

- → **You might care more about encouraging your brethren.**
 - **rf. 2 Pet. 1:12-15** Peter, diligent to teach them, so they remember these things after his death
- ● **rf. Heb. 3:13** encourage one another, day by day

- → **You might care more about leading people to Christ.**
 - **rf. Matt. 5:14-16** light of the world, city / lamp, not hid, let light shine so men glorify God
- ● **rf. 1 Pet. 3:15** sanctify Christ as Lord, ready to give defense, everyone who asks, with gentleness and reverence

- → **Summary / Conclusion:**
 - **What might you do differently, if you lived every day like it was your last?**

Conclusion:

➤ → Live like you are dying — like its your last day to live!

- **fact:** everyone one of us is dying
 - **illus.:** Andrea: Ms. Winchester is dying - my response: aren't we all - flippant, feel bad for teacher with heart trouble in hospital
 - it's more evident to some people than others
 - **illus.:** cancer patient, doing the things he's always wanted to do but not done
 - we are all dying, and none of us know when we'll depart from this life

→ What might you do differently, if you lived every day like it was your last?

- **saying:** live so that you'll have no regrets, when you breath your last breathe
 - if you were paralyzed for life in a hospital, make sure you would have no regrets
 - if you were in a car accident and had only moments to live, conscious of what was happening, you would have no regrets

→ Inv.:

- if you knew today was your last day to live, what would you do
- that's what you need to do today
- this may be your last day — you might not know it yet

Audio sermon notes:

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 2/19/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.