

In A World Of Chaos What's Our Ethos?

I don't think we have to make too much of an argument or case today that we're living in a crazy, chaotic world. Just the last couple of months alone have seen such an absurd, mixed up, attempt to promote a Satanic agenda that has come at huge costs to corporations. And yet, they continue to roll out their advertisements with seemingly no clue to what affect it has on them. And perhaps they do see it and just don't care because it's all being driven by a globalist attempt to bring about a godless society.

When you see Bud Light incorporate a man pretending to be a woman to promote their beer and then see one of the most successful boycotts in corporate history – that's pretty amazing. And it speaks volumes. They've lost 27 billion in market value. You would think other companies would be sitting back going, '*Ok Susan, let's maybe scratch that commercial featuring guys in drag riding on unicorns.*' But no, company after company continued to roll out their rainbow themed, woke advertising. Nike steps up to the plate next with their own campaign for their sports bra – being modeled by this same dude!

- Now I was like, well I'm not a Nike guy so good riddance to them! I'm team Adidas! But then... 😭 Adidas comes out with their own campaign for women's swimwear, and you guessed it, being modeled by a man!
- All these companies are doing so at a cost. Go woke, you go broke!
- And the list just keeps going: Patagonia, L.A. Dodgers, Target.

It's like our world has just gone mad. The sad thing is that what used to be done in the dark (because it was dark) is now being celebrated in the open!

We've entered into Pride Month where we see the growing defiance against the things of God. Nothing good comes out of pride.

- It was pride that caused Satan to fall.
- It's pride that's at the root of so much sin. It puts the focus on self, and a promotion of self rather than a dying to self which is what we're called to do Biblically.
- **Proverbs 11:2**, "*When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.*"
- **Proverbs 13:10**, "*By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.*"
- **Proverbs 16:18**, "*Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.*"

Not only do we see a world in mass confusion and blurring the lines of what is true and fact, we see the world idolizing the notion to just be who you want to be.

We're advocating the mutilation of children. The cry for pro-choice and late term abortions gets louder and louder. The list goes on.

Not to mention the drift we see theologically or just biblically in churches. That Adam and Eve may not really be literal people, but just representatives of the human race. The age-old question that Satan gave in the garden, '*Did God really say?*', is being repeated from pastors and pulpits today.

So, we've got all that going down. We've got a continued push to a global government, WEF is out of control, the rise of A.I., Digital ID's, this is Revelation 13 beast system type stuff. And for some, it can be too much to where they just want to run away in despair.

But what's our role in all of this? How are we to respond, how are we to live? In a world of chaos, what's our ethos? [ethos = character; disposition; principles].

I want to take you to Luke's Gospel and look at some things that I find interesting and that I hope you will find helpful and encouraging today.

We're going to start in Luke 9:51, and we see a very pivotal verse here.

Through this message I want us to:

1. Learn from Jesus' Steadfastness
2. Beware of our Selfishness
3. Remember God's Salvation

1. Learn from Jesus' Steadfastness – Luke 9:51-62

Luke 9:51–53, "*Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, ⁵² and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.*"

Now all through Jesus' ministry, He was operating on a divine timetable. In other words, all things were working themselves out right according to the plans of God. Nothing was taking Jesus by surprise, nothing was disrupting His schedule.

- How about you? Do you find that things are disrupting your schedule or putting you in a bad mood based on what you have to go through? Yet we should understand that all things aren't falling apart but rather falling into place. Now we know that to be true theologically, but it's another thing to accept that personally isn't it? And yet, our lives are in God's hands. He's orchestrating everything in this universe, and yes, He's at work in your life too! So, though we may see the world seemingly in chaos, everything is still functioning right according to God's timing.

And we read that *when the time had come for Him to be received up, that **He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.***

This is where Luke's gospel turns a corner, and we see the preparation of Jesus to make His way to Jerusalem.

Now when it says *He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem*, that was pretty huge. Because Jesus knew exactly what that would entail. It would mean betrayal, suffering, mocking, and eventual death.

This is a huge thing! The idea of **steadfastly setting** your face toward something spoke of resoluteness, courage, strength. This was Jesus willingly, committedly, making His way to Jerusalem. For what? The cross!!

- Many of us have experienced a courage of the moment; where there's no previous thought as to the ramifications of taking action. We rise to the occasion of something that we need to act in strength over (ie. Mom's lifting cars to get their trapped child free; surfers fighting against sharks ready to gobble them up; jumping on the car that's about to take your parking spot at church. There's no prior thought involved, you just leap into action – it's a courage of the moment).
- But with Jesus, this was not a reactive thing. This was a planned courage. It was seeing what lay ahead and resolutely moving towards that no matter what.
- Jesus fixed His eyes towards this goal and moved forward in the will of God.

Are we prepared and committed to move forward in the things of God even if they don't make sense to us? Do we respond to a chaotic world with a resolute courage to carry out God's will?

And Jesus has been revealing these things to His disciples. He's been bringing them along. This should not have been a surprise to them. In fact, we read just a few verses earlier:

- **Luke 9:22**, *"saying, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.'"*

Whenever Jesus spoke about His suffering and upcoming crucifixion, it was as if the disciples just tuned it out. They never could have imagined how their Messiah, the Saviour of the world would have to die. They figured He was going to be their hero, their political deliverer. It took the disciples a while before they could really comprehend the weight of what Jesus had come to do.

In fact, we read in **Luke 18:32–34**, *"For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³ They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." ³⁴ But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken."*

They understood none of these things!

- It's much like how I feel after my wife is done talking with me. In fact, I'm not sure why she always starts conversations with, *'and one last thing...'* 😊

So here's Jesus laying it out there for His disciples. But He's not just telling them this so they can guard *Him* or protect *Him*; this is to prepare *them*.

- He wanted to prepare His disciples to know that living this life as a follower of Christ wouldn't be marked with popularity and acceptance.
- Rather than fame in their future it will be a cross.

Jesus modelled for us this resolute, steadfast mindset that though things were not going to get easier, He set His face toward the very thing that would end up killing Him. He purposed to walk that Calvary Road to the cross, because it would be through the cross that all He truly purposed for us would be completed!

Now Jesus began to send messengers into various cities. This was part of the preparation – preparing people's hearts to receive Him. But notice in vs. 53, this Samaritan village did not receive Him because He was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

- Now there was real differences and disputes between the Samaritans and Jews. They didn't agree on the right place of worship among other things. So the Samaritans weren't interested in someone heading to Jerusalem.
- But then look at James and John's response...

2. Beware of our Selfishness – Luke 9:54-55

Luke 9:54–55, *"And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, 'Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?' 55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, 'You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.'"*

You gotta love the response of James and John. Let's face it, we've probably all been there before (some of you were there just this morning on your way to church).

- Someone's driving too slow in the left lane on the highway – Fire!
- Your food at a restaurant takes too long to get to you – Fire!
- Someone takes the seat you have reserved at church which you're not really supposed to reserve but you do it anyway – Fire!

These are very real emotions that can sometimes get the better of us. But recognize where that's from. Because Jesus gives a very strong response to these brothers:

You do not know what manner of spirit you are of...

This kind of response from James and John doesn't line up with the Calvary way. It's certainly not reflective of Jesus.

We can easily justify certain attitudes when we feel we're dealing with those opposed to God.

- The Samaritans were a people that had a segregationist attitude, they were filled with racial pride, and they certainly weren't accepting of Christ.
- It would give guys like James and John (and maybe some of us) a sense of justification to say, *'That's it. They're too far gone. It's time to write them off. Let the judgment fall.'*
- But this is not the heart of God then or today.
- We have to be so mindful of what spirit we are acting in. Are we responding to things we see in the world with a fire that is not from God? Are we trying to bring about our will or are we serving God's will?

Our world is full of people who have rejected God and are living in defiance of Him. Evil abounds and it's easy to just want to check out and say I'm done. It's easy to say I'm just going to do my own thing, to where we become more about escaping that evangelizing. But our mission is to remain sharing the gospel and living out our lives in faithfulness to God.

Our goal is not survival, our focus is sacrifice. Walking the Calvary Road.

- When Paul was being warned about heading into Jerusalem and the potential trouble waiting him there, even with the pleas of friends to avoid this, I love what Paul said with that same steadfastness as Jesus:
- **Acts 20:24**, *"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."*

So, Jesus rebuked James and John and reminded them of the proper focus and mission – that He came to save and not destroy lives.

3. Remember God's Salvation – Luke 9:55

Luke 9:56 – “For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.” And they went to another village.”

Here is a question put to every believer by this text: does living for Jesus mean deploying God's missiles against the enemy in righteous indignation? Or does living for Jesus mean following Him on the Calvary road which leads to suffering and death? The answer of the whole New Testament is this: the surprise about *Jesus the Messiah* is that He came to live a life of sacrificial, dying service before He comes a second time to reign in glory. And the surprise about being a *follower of Christ* is that it demands a life of sacrificial, dying service before we can reign with Christ in glory.

- You see, in this day that we live with a world in chaos, not just morally and theologically as we discussed earlier, but economically as we read about and expect with potential food shortages and crash of the economy, it's easy to take a position of self-preservation.
- But let God take care of that. Be about His business with the time we have remaining. Don't let your priorities get misplaced.

*And hear me out on this: I'm not against being prepared. I'm not against taking a stand against the craziness we see in the world. We need to uphold truth and righteousness.

But don't forget what our purpose is here, it's to be a witness of Jesus.

Jesus came to save the world from their sin and bring people into a right relationship with God through Him. Let's be about that – let's be about sharing that good news. Aren't you glad you received it? Now pass it on.