



INTRODUCTION

If you walked up to a stranger and handed him a parachute, would he put it on? Probably not. But if you told him the plane was about to crash, the parachute would be a welcome gift!

Jesus often brought people face-to-face with reality before revealing Himself as the answer.

**Before people appreciate the cure, they must understand the disease.
Before they run to the Savior, they must understand they need saving.**

Luke 5:31 – ... They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

Luke 5:32 – I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

1. The Reality all will face: DEATH.

Hebrews 9:27 – “And as it is appointed unto men once to die...”

Great Equalizer Death is the great equalizer...
Rich... poor... young... old... religious... atheists... all will **DIE**.
10 out of 10 people die. Every obituary is a reminder that life is temporary.

The Cemetery When was the last time you passed a cemetery and thought – “One day...?”
Most people live as though death is for everyone else – not them.
Yet the Bible says that everyone has **an appointment** with death.

Comparing Scriptures

Luke 12:20 – “... Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee...”

The man had plans for years to come. God said, “You have hours to live...”

The greatest mistake is preparing for the future and retirement while neglecting **ETERNITY**.

Personal Application

- Why do people avoid thinking about death?
- How does remembering our mortality create urgency for the Gospel?
- When witnessing, we must be willing to ask people what they think happens at death.

2. The Reckoning all will face: JUDGMENT.

Hebrews 9:27 – “... but after this the judgment...”

Death is not the end. Every person will stand before God and give account of himself to God.

Practical Examples

Court Summons Imagine getting a summons to appear in court. You wouldn't ignore it. Yet every lost person has an appointment before the Judge of all the earth! The Bible says the court date is already set! **Hebrews 9:27**

Paul at Athens Paul did not merely preach love – he preached **accountability** to God. God commands repentance because judgment is coming. **Acts 17:30-31**

Paul and Felix Felix did not tremble when hearing about God's love. He trembled when confronted with judgment to come! **Acts 24:25** (*The Holy Spirit's message!*)

Comparing Scriptures

Acts 17:31 – “... he hath appointed a day... he will judge the world in righteousness...”

Acts 24:25 – “...as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled...”

Personal Application

- Why is judgment rarely mentioned today?
- What happens when we preach grace without accountability to God?
- When witnessing, we must speak of the reckoning that is coming for them before God.

3. The First Stops on the road to the cross... Death and Judgment!

Questions that open Gospel conversations...

1. “Have you ever thought about what happens after death?”...“What do you think happens?”
2. “The Bible says after death is judgment. How do you think God will judge you?”
3. “If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?”

The Real Need People have lots of physical needs, but their true need is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the answer to all of life's issues and problems. All need Him.

Jesus – John 3 Nicodemus had questions. Jesus Christ said, “Ye must be born again.”

Comparing Scriptures

John 3:2 – “...we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do...”

John 4:16-18 – “Jesus saith...Go, call thy husband, and come hither...thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.”

4. CONCLUSION

People do not need a better life plan. They need a Savior.

The objective of evangelism is not getting someone to repeat words in agreement or in prayer. The objective is to bring them face-to-face with Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross.

This week... Pray daily for lost people. Ask God for boldness. Carry Gospel tracts everywhere. Start one spiritual conversation with someone. Begin living intentionally for Christ.