

Danger Zone

Delusion

Luke 12:13-21

February 16, 2020 am

HDBC

A Danger Zone is an area in which there is a high risk of harm. **Construction zones, military areas, natural dangers (game preserves, Grand Canyon)**

But there are other kinds of danger zones. For example . . .

There is a temperature danger zone when it comes to food. It is between 40°F and 140°F. This range of temperature is dangerous because it's below the temperature at which heat destroys bacteria (above 160°F), yet above the cooling range (below 40°F) where the growth of bacteria is slowed.

When you see a ***Danger Zone*** sign it is a warning to stay away. If you ignore the sign you could get hurt or killed. Those signs are for our protection.

Started a new series last week about **Danger Zones** that relate to our spiritual lives. We will look at four danger zones that can cause eternal harm. Danger zones that you do not want to be stuck in. You may be in one of these now, and if so, my goal is to help you see the danger and learn how you can get out.

Last week, we look at the first Danger Zone, Denial. The one who denies the reality of God is in a danger zone. When this person dies and ultimately stands before the God whom they denied existed, it will be in judgment, not mercy.

Today we will consider a second Danger Zone. **Delusion**. A delusion is something that is falsely believed. It is assuming that something is true, when it is not. A delusional person holds to beliefs that are not true, usually regardless of the evident that is demonstrated.

In May 2016 an Israeli man petitioned for a restraining order against God. The plaintiff, identified as David Shoshan, represented himself at a court hearing in Haifa. The report noted that God was not present to defend himself. (Of course maybe God was present but didn't feel a need to defend himself).

Mr. Shoshan told the court that God had been treating him "harshly and not nicely." Mr. Shoshan also explained that he had made several attempts to contact police to report God's alleged crimes, and that patrol cars had been sent to his house on 10 occasions. Police advised him to take out a restraining order.

The request for a restraining order was denied by the presiding Judge Ahsan Canaan, who said the request was "delusional" and that the petitioner required help from sources outside of the court

That man is suffering from a serious delusion, but that is not the kind of delusion that I want to warn us about. There are millions of people rapidly moving through life who are completely delusional when it comes to who God is and how He relates to them. Because of that they fail to understand their purpose in life, what will bring them joy and contentment, and why they should be prepared for death. Many are living in delusion and thus, in a **Danger Zone**.

Jesus told a story about a man who lived in the Danger Zone of **Delusion**.

1. **The Warning (13-15a)**

A man came to Jesus and asked him to settle a family dispute. He wanted Jesus to make his brother divide the inheritance with him.

Here is a man who life is out of focus. Here he has the undivided attention of the one who created all the universe. He could have asked him about the profound realities of life and death. He could have asked him why there is so much suffering in the world. He could have asked him about Heaven.

Instead, he wants Jesus to tell his brother to give him some money.

Jesus refused to get involved. We could learn something about not getting into other people's business, from the actions of Jesus at this point. Though Jesus did not get involved in the situation, he saw an opportunity to offer a warning about the danger of greed. Notice the words he used.

Beware – To see and take note off. Not to simple notice and quickly forget, but to allow something to be burned into your consciousness.

Be on your guard – Watch for, with idea of being able to escape if needed.

What is he talking about? Greed. The unquenchable desire for MORE.

The Broadway musical that recreates Charles Dickens classic, *Oliver Twist* opens in an orphanage dining room with young Oliver holding his empty bowl, appealing to the orphanage director, “Please sir, I want some more.” The irritated director snarls, “More!” He then yells, “Catch him! Snatch him! . . . Pick him up and bounce him. Wait! Before we put the lad to task. May I be so curious as to ask his name?”

The chorus breaks out, “Oliver! Oliver! Never before has a boy wanted more . . . He will curse the day somebody named him Oliver.”

Everything would have been fine for Oliver Twist if he’d simply been content with what he had. What he wanted was MORE, and what he got was trouble.

Oliver is a great symbol of all of us. We have an insatiable appetite for more. More money, more stuff, more friends, more prestige, etc. This thing that is so entrenched in most of us, is something that Jesus is warning us about. It will eat you up!

2. **The Statement (15b)**

Jesus then made an important statement, declaring a principle for living. ***Life does not consist in having a lot of stuff.*** Even if you have gained a whole lot of money and a large assortment of toys and play things, you will not be happy. That is not real living. It is only a façade. True living comes from another source.

On another occasion he said a similar thing. *What profit will it be for a person if he gains the whole world, but loses his soul?* That may sound like a strange statement in this money-hungry, get-more culture. But He was right. No amount of stuff can give you true peace and contentment.

There is a void in every person’s life that can only be filled in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Nothing else will do. You may be able to put something else into that void, but it will only provide temporary comfort and no lasting

peace. It will not really meet your need. You will only feel that you are safe.

Remember when Jurassic Park came out? Pretty intense movie. One scene when the T-rex is terrorizing the people in the two jeeps. One man runs from the jeep into a small building that turns out to be a rest room. He thinks he is safe, until the T-rex tears the building away, leaving him sitting there, defenseless. The next moment . . . well it's not good for him.

What he thought would meet his need for protection, turned out to be insufficient. It was only a façade. Jesus was a master storyteller. And here, he found an opportunity to tell a story.

3. The Story (16-21)

This is not a complicated story. There was a farmer who had a very successful year. He produced such a large crop that he quickly filled all of his barns. Yet, he still had more. He had a problem. He had more than he knew what to do with.

Quickly his mind concocted a solution. He would tear down his small barns, and replace them with BIGGER ONES. Then he would fill them with his goods. Once done, he would have enough to sit back and cruise the rest of the way. Life would be easy. He had struck it rich. There would be no more need for work. No more need to struggle. No more concerns.

Whatever he might need, he could afford. Nothing would be out of reach from him. He could literally buy anything his heart desired. He could do anything he might want to do. HE WAS SET. A dream come true.

Now, before I get to the point of the story, let me point out a couple of things.

First, there was nothing wrong with him being successful. He worked hard and was rewarded for it.

Second, there was nothing wrong with being wealthy. Having a large amount of money is not a sin.

However, there was a problem. And this is the point of the story.

Though he came up with a plan that would have set him up for life, at least in his own mind, he never got to carry out those plans. This man died the very night that he came up with plans to tear down his small barns and build larger ones. He was **deluded** into thinking that everything was fine.

Three mistakes this man made.

A. He Did Not Care About Others

This man only cared about himself. He had a surplus crop and rather than seeing it as an opportunity to take care of the needs of others, he only thought of hoarding it for himself. He had a bad case of near-sightedness.

Six times the word “I” is used and five times the word “my” in the text. It is a cold, selfish person who lives only for self. How sad to go through life thinking first and foremost of one’s self, rather than thinking of others.

B. He Failed to Realize How Short Life Is

He never once thought of the possibility that his life would soon be over. He mistakenly thought that he had plenty of time. It is a rare person who actually dies when expected. Most people, regardless of their age, expect to live just a little longer. But life is short.

Some in this room will die before this time next year. Most of us are saying, “yes, but it won’t be me.” I conducted four memorial services in the last 10 days. The death rate in America is 100 percent!

C. He Made No Room for God

The biggest mistake this man made was in not leaving room in his life for God. He drew a tight circle around himself and left no room for God. Imagine the shock on this man’s face when he heard the words, “You fool . . .” His life was cut short and suddenly it was time to reconcile the accounts. It was time to stand before God. His destination would be fixed forever. And it would not be heaven.

Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10