

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. AND WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM. HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT JOHN 6:14-15, WHERE WE READ ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE MIRACLE OF FEEDING THE 5000. SO GET YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO JOHN 6. I'M GOING TO MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, TROY SPRADLIN COMES TO US FROM HIS WORKSHOP, AND HE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT BIBLE STATISTICS. WE'LL SEE WHAT THAT'S ABOUT IN JUST A MOMENT. JIM DEARMAN JOINS US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT HELP-WANTED SIGNS. BARRY GILREATH HAS ANOTHER FABRIC OF FAMILY FOR US, AND HE'S TALKING ABOUT MAKING A GOOD MARRIAGE EVEN BETTER, ALONGSIDE JIM DEARMAN. IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR GUYTON MONTGOMERY AND TROY SPRADLIN: DOES PERSECUTION IN THE LORD'S CHURCH OCCUR IN THIS DAY AND AGE? WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO JOHN 6, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING IN VERSE 14, THEN THOSE MEN, WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THE SIGN THAT JESUS DID, SAID, THIS IS TRULY THE PROPHET WHO HAS COME INTO THE WORLD. THEREFORE, WHEN JESUS PERCEIVED THAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO COME AND TAKE HIM BY FORCE TO MAKE HIM KING, HE DEPARTED AGAIN TO THE MOUNTAIN BY HIMSELF ALONE.

>> (SINGING)

>> HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF JOHN CHAPTER 6, JESUS IS AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POPULARITY WITH THE PEOPLE. AND AS THE CHAPTER BEGINS, HE'S FEEDING THE 5000 MEN, PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WITH FIVE SMALL LOAVES AND TWO FISH. IT'S ONE OF THE SIGNS THAT WE HAVE IN THE BOOK OF JOHN, SIGNS BEING A KEY WORD THAT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THESE ARE THINGS THAT POINT TO JESUS AS THE MESSIAH. AND BY FEEDING THIS MANY PEOPLE, JESUS HAS POTENTIALLY SOLVED ONE OF THE GREAT CHALLENGES FOR ANY ARMY: THAT'S LOGISTICS, GETTING SUPPLIES, FOOD AND THINGS LIKE THAT TO THE TROOPS. AND BECAUSE OF THIS MIRACLE, THE CROWD THINKS THEY MAY JUST HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST ROME, WHO IS OVER THEM AT THIS POINT IN TIME. THEY WANT TO GET RID OF ROME, AND THEY THINK JESUS MAY BE ABLE TO DO THAT. SO WE GET TO OUR TEXT, AND THEY CONCLUDED BECAUSE OF THAT SIGN THAT JESUS TRULY IS THE PROPHET. AND THAT PHRASE, THE PROPHET, IS SOMETHING THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SINCE DEUTERONOMY 18:15, WHEN MOSES WAS TOLD THAT GOD WAS GOING TO PROVIDE A PROPHET SIMILAR TO HIM TO BRING A DIFFERENT LAW. YOU SEE, THE PEOPLE THERE SAW THE PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLE, TO AFFIRM THE MESSAGE THAT JESUS WAS SPEAKING. AND THAT'S A KEY CONCEPT THERE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL ACCOUNT. BACK IN CHAPTER 3, VERSE 2, NICODEMUS TOLD JESUS, WE KNOW THAT YOU'RE A TEACHER THAT'S COME FROM GOD BECAUSE OF THE MIRACLES, THE SIGNS THAT YOU DO. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE SEE HERE IN CHAPTER 6. THE SIGNS HELP THEM KNOW THIS INDEED WAS A TEACHER THAT'S COME FROM GOD. SO THEY WERE ABOUT TO COME AND TAKE HIM BY FORCE TO MAKE HIM KING. YOU SEE,

THE CROWD WAS READY TO REBEL AGAINST ROME, AND THEY KNEW WHO THEY WOULD MAKE KING TO DO THAT. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WOULD BE A GREAT LEADER OF THIS. HE CLEARLY HAD GOD WITH HIM DOING THE MIRACLES, AND HE HAD THE ABILITY TO HELP THE ARMY WITH THEIR LOGISTICS PROBLEM. KNOWING THIS WAS THE CASE, JESUS DEPARTED BY HIMSELF TO THE MOUNTAIN. THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE HIM AND MAKE HIM KING, AND JESUS REJECTED THAT AND WENT AWAY BY HIMSELF, WALKED AWAY FROM THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. THIS WAS A SETBACK IN JESUS' MINISTRY. PEOPLE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT. YOU SEE, THEY WERE THINKING PHYSICALLY AND NOT SPIRITUALLY. SPIRITUAL WAS WHAT JESUS HAD BEEN TRYING TO TEACH THEM. HE NEEDED SOME TIME TO REGROUP, SO HE WENT BY HIMSELF. SO WE CAN SEE FROM THIS THAT JESUS WASN'T TRYING TO SET UP AN EARTHLY KINGDOM. HE WOULDN'T ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO DO IT WHEN THEY WERE TRYING TO. HE WAS TRYING TO SET UP A KINGDOM MADE WITHOUT HANDS, DANIEL 2:44-45; NOT A PHYSICAL KINGDOM, BUT A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM THAT ALL NATIONS WOULD FLOW TO, ISAIAH 2:2, NOT JUST ISRAEL. THE CHURCH WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN, AND HE ACCOMPLISHED IT. EPHESIANS 3:10-11 TELLS US THAT THE INTENT, NOW THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD MIGHT BE MADE KNOWN BY THE CHURCH TO THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN HEAVENLY PLACES ACCORDING TO THE ETERNAL PURPOSE, THAT PLAN HE HAD, WHICH HE ACCOMPLISHED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. JESUS DID EXACTLY WHAT HE SET OUT TO DO, AND THAT WAS TO ESTABLISH HIS CHURCH. AND THE WISDOM OF GOD IS SEEN IN HIS CHURCH. SO WE NEED TO APPRECIATE THAT FACT, THE CHURCH THAT HE'S GIVEN US. SOMETIMES ALSO, WE NEED TO BE LIKE JESUS AND GET AWAY FROM THINGS. WE CAN GET TOO BUSY DOING THINGS AND NEED A BREAK. THE LORD DOESN'T EXPECT US TO GO FULL THROTTLE ALL THE TIME. HE CREATED US, AND HE KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE THAT WE NEED A BREAK FROM TIME TO TIME. HE DOESN'T EXPECT FROM US MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE. HE ALLOWS US TIME TO REGROUP AND RECOVER. HE CARES ABOUT YOU, INCLUDING IN THIS WAY. AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO HEAD OVER TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN IS WAITING FOR US. HE'S TALKING ABOUT BIBLE STATISTICS.

>> YOU KNOW, ALMOST EVERY MALE THAT I KNOW IS PROLIFIC IN SPORTS STATISTICS. I MEAN, THEY KNOW ALL THE NAMES OF THE TEAM LINEUP, THEY KNOW THE STANDINGS GOING BACK FOR YEARS, AND CAN CITE A MOUNTAIN OF ATHLETICALLY-RELATED DATA. AND EVEN IF IT ISN'T SPORTS, IT'LL BE SOMETHING LIKE CARS OR HOBBIES OR SOME SPECIAL SKILL. AND WHATEVER THEIR PREFERRED SUBJECT MIGHT BE, YOU CAN COUNT ON THEM TO TELL YOU THE WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHERE AND HOW AND WHEN OF ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR THING. WHO WON THE WORLD SERIES IN 2016? WELL, THEY KNOW. WHO RECEIVED THE HEISMAN TROPHY IN 2007? THEY CAN TELL YOU. AND THAT'S BECAUSE THEY NOT ONLY LOVE WATCHING WHATEVER THEY'RE INTO, BUT THEY LOVE TALKING ABOUT IT, TOO. OH, AND BY THE WAY, WOMEN DO THE SAME THING. SOMETIMES IT'S SPORTS, BUT OTHERWISE IT'LL BE SOMETHING IN WHICH THEY HAVE A KEEN INTEREST. NOW, THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: PEOPLE LOVE TO TALK ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE PASSION OR PASTIME, AND SO THEY KNOW ALL THE DETAILS, SO MANY DETAILS. I MEAN, EVEN MYSELF, I LIKE AUTOMOBILE RACING, PRETTY MUCH EVERY KIND OF CAR RACING. AND I LEARNED A SPIRITUAL LESSON SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHENEVER I WAS GOING TO WATCH A RACE WITH SOME CHRISTIAN BROTHERS OF MINE, AND ONE OF THEM WAS A PREACHER FRIEND. YOU SEE, HE LIKED RACING, TOO. SO WE WERE ALL EXCITED ABOUT GOING TO THE RACE. AND ALONG THE WAY, WE STOPPED AT THIS

RESTAURANT, AND OF COURSE WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT THIS DRIVER AND THAT DRIVER, THE CAR SETUPS, WHAT TEAM WAS IN CONTENTION FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP, WHAT ENGINE THEY'RE GOING TO USE, WHAT'S THE BEST TIRES, AND EVEN THE CONDITION OF THE TRACK; JUST A WHOLE BUNCH OF GENERALLY USELESS KNOWLEDGE THAT WAS BEING SPOUTED BY EVERYONE EXCEPT FOR THE PREACHER. AND I FINALLY ASKED HIM, BROTHER, ARE WE BORING YOU OR MAKING YOU FEEL LEFT OUT WITH ALL THIS CAR RACING JARGON THAT WE'RE THROWING AROUND? AND HE JUST SMILED AND HE RESPONDED, NO, I THINK IT'S ALL VERY INTERESTING. I JUST DON'T KNOW ALL THE STATS AND DATA THAT YOU GUYS KNOW. AND I SAID, OH, WELL, DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL PICK IT UP EVENTUALLY. AND AGAIN, HE SMILED AND HE SAID, NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I LIKE RACING, BUT I MUCH PREFER TO KNOW AND TALK ABOUT BIBLICAL STATS INSTEAD OF RACING STATS. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO DRIVES WHAT CAR OR WHAT TEAM THEY ARE, BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHO ALL THE APOSTLES ARE, WHO THE PROPHETS AND KINGS WERE, THE NAMES OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE, AND THINGS LIKE THAT. YOU SEE, THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO TALK ABOUT. WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THAT AFFECTED THE OTHERS WHO HEARD WHAT HE SAID AT THE TABLE, BUT IT FELT LIKE A GUT PUNCH TO ME, AND IT MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW MUCH I NEED TO REPAIR MY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT MY OWN BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE. YOU SEE, I HAD A MOUNTAIN OF SPORTS DATA INTERNALIZED THAT IN REALITY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME EXCEPT GIVE ME SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH A FEW PEOPLE. I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF KING DAVID, WHO WROTE, YOUR WORD I'VE HIDDEN IN MY HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU IN PSALM 119:11, OR PAUL TALKING ABOUT HAVING ZEAL FOR GOD, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE, ROMANS 10:2. OR COULD YOU IMAGINE JESUS SAYING TO YOU THAT YOU ARE MISTAKEN, NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES, NOR THE POWER OF GOD, LIKE HE DID TO THE SADDUCEES IN MATTHEW 22:29? I MEAN, HOW MUCH MORE CRITICAL IS HAVING GOD'S WORD INTERNALIZED IN OUR MINDS THAN WORLDLY INFORMATION? YOU SEE, KNOWING WHO THE PEOPLE ARE IN THE BIBLE AND WHAT THEY DID AND WHAT LESSONS THAT WE CAN GLEAN FROM THEIR STORIES AND WHERE TO FIND THEM AND ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS THAT WE FIND IN THESE HOLY PAGES IS CRITICAL TO MY SOUL; MORE SO THAN ANY SPORTS TRIVIA. SO WHILE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MEMORIZING SPORTS STATS, WE SHOULD STILL ASK THE QUESTION, WHAT'S TAKING UP MORE ROOM IN MY HEART? IS IT GOD'S WORD OR SOMETHING ELSE? I HOPE THIS WILL ENCOURAGE YOU TO START FILLING YOUR MIND WITH THE BIBLE. THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A TEST AT THE END, BUT I PROMISE YOU, IT WILL CERTAINLY BLESS YOUR LIFE TO KNOW MORE BIBLE STATISTICS.

>> WE MAY NEED TO REFOCUS OUR ATTENTION TO MAKE SURE WE'RE SPENDING SUFFICIENT TIME ON THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER. MAYBE GO AWAY TO THAT PROVERBIAL MOUNTAIN LIKE JESUS DID. THANKS, TROY. NOW IT'S TIME TO GRAB SOME PAPER AND SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH, AND YOU CAN WRITE DOWN OUR CONTACT INFORMATION. IF YOU HAVEN'T ENROLLED IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE, CONTACT US TO GET STARTED. IT'S A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO IMPLEMENT THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE YOUR BIBLE STUDY THIS YEAR. REMEMBER, ALL OF OUR COURSES ARE GIVEN FREE OF CHARGE. WE WON'T TRY TO SELL YOU ANYTHING AND WE WON'T PESTER YOU WITH SOLICITATIONS. JIM DEARMAN IS GOING TO JOIN US VERY SHORTLY.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY

MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL MAIL IT TO YOU. DID YOU KNOW THAT GOOD NEWS TODAY CAN BE HEARD 24/7 THROUGH OUR CHANNEL ON TRUTH.FM? THIS IS A GROUP OF STREAMING RADIO STATIONS THAT OFFER GREAT BIBLICAL PROGRAMMING FOR LISTENERS AROUND THE WORLD. IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY, CHECK OUT TRUTH.FM AND LOOK FOR THE GOOD NEWS TODAY CHANNEL. NOW HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT HELP-WANTED SIGNS.

>> A SIGN IN A STORE WINDOW, READ NO HELP WANTED. AS TWO MEN PASSED BY AND SAW THE SIGN, ONE SAID TO THE OTHER, YOU KNOW, YOU OUGHT TO APPLY. YOU'D BE GREAT. WELL, SURELY NO ONE WANTS TO BE KNOWN FOR BEING GREAT AT DOING NOTHING. JOHN W. GARDNER SAID, WHOEVER I AM OR WHATEVER I AM DOING, SOME KIND OF EXCELLENCE IS WITHIN MY REACH. WHATEVER HONORABLE COURSE WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW IN LIFE, WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE IN PURSUING THAT COURSE. HOWEVER, ANY EXCELLENCE WE MIGHT ACHIEVE IN ANY AREA WILL BE WORTHLESS UNLESS WE ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN THE MOST IMPORTANT AREA OF LIFE: CHRISTIANITY. JESUS TAUGHT THAT CHRISTIANS ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH AND THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. THE MOST EXCELLENT EXISTENCE OF ALL IS IN LIVING TO LEAD OTHERS TO THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. WE CANNOT ALL ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN EVERY FIELD OF ENDEAVOR, BUT WE ALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE IT IN THE AREA THAT MATTERS MOST. THE EXCELLENT AND ABUNDANT LIFE IN CHRIST IS WITHIN YOUR REACH, BUT YOU MUST REACH FOR IT BY OBEYING CHRIST'S TEACHINGS.

>> EXCELLENCE IS AVAILABLE, BUT WE'VE GOT TO WANT IT AND REACH OUT FOR IT. THANKS, JIM. OUR APPS ARE AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO GET A DOSE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY OR ANY DAY. YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS A PROGRAM. WE HAVE MATERIAL THAT YOU'LL SEE ON OUR PROGRAM AS WELL AS SOME EXCELLENT MATERIAL FROM YEARS GONE BY. THEY'RE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PHONE OR TABLET AS WELL AS ON ROKU OR APPLE TV DEVICES. JUST LOOK FOR THE GOOD NEWS TODAY APP IN THE APP STORE AND DOWNLOAD IT FOR FREE. JIM DEARMAN MOVES OVER TO VISIT WITH BARRY GILREATH, AND THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT MAKING A GOOD MARRIAGE BETTER IN FABRIC OF FAMILY.

>> WELL, JIM, IT IS SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US TODAY. OVER THE YEARS ON FABRIC OF FAMILY, I'VE HAD LOTS AND LOTS OF DIFFERENT GUESTS.

>> OH, YES.

>> BUT YOU'RE ONE OF MY FAVORITES.

>> WELL, I APPRECIATE THAT.

>> AND I APPRECIATE YOU DOING THIS SHORT SEGMENT WITH US TODAY.

>> GLAD TO DO IT, BROTHER. GLAD TO BE WITH YOU.

>> I WANT TO POSE THIS QUESTION TO YOU. YOU KNOW, A LOT OF TIMES AS WE ARE THINKING ABOUT GETTING MARRIED OR EVEN AFTER WE GET MARRIED, THERE'LL BE THOSE PEOPLE WHO COME ALONG AND SAY, WELL, LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE, YOU KNOW. AS YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP - AND I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR MANY YEARS - IS THERE SOME BIT OF ADVICE THAT SOMEONE HAS GIVEN OR OFFERED THAT HAS ESPECIALLY STOOD OUT AS BEING HELPFUL?

>> WELL, IN THINKING ABOUT IT, I GUESS I COULD NOT GO TO A BETTER SOURCE TO ANSWER THAT THAN TO THE SCRIPTURES THEMSELVES AND TO THE APOSTLE PAUL, REALLY. I'D SAY THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME THE BEST ADVICE THAT YOU COULD HAVE IN THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP, AND ESPECIALLY IN EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THAT CONTEXT BEGINNING IN VERSE 22 WHERE HE ADMONISHES WIVES TO SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS, BUT THE QUALIFICATION IS, AS TO THE LORD, WHICH IS A VERY IMPORTANT QUALIFYING PHRASE. AND THERE ARE MANY WOMEN TODAY WHO FIND THAT PIECE OF ADVICE, INSPIRED ADVICE TO BE REPUGNANT TO THEM BECAUSE OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT, ET CETERA, AND THEY FEEL LIKE THAT'S SOME SORT OF CHAUVINISTIC ADVICE FROM PAUL.

>> YEAH, I'VE HEARD PEOPLE.

>> YEAH, HAD PEOPLE ACCUSE PAUL OF BEING A MALE CHAUVINIST. WELL, NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH, OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE THAT KIND OF SUBMISSION IS ONE THAT ANY WIFE SHOULD READILY SUBMIT TO UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT THEN YOU GET TO THE HUSBAND IN VERSE 25, LOVE YOUR WIVES, AND THEN HE ADDS, JUST AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR HER. THAT'S AN ADMONITION. THAT'S THE BEST ADVICE ANY HUSBAND COULD EVER HAVE IS TO OBVIOUSLY, FIRST OF ALL, BE A CHRISTIAN AND LOVE THE LORD SUPREME ABOVE ALL OTHERS. JESUS SAID, WHEN YOU COME TO ME, IF YOU DO NOT HATE FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER, SISTER, WIFE, CHILDREN AND YOUR OWN LIFE ALSO, YOU CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE. AND THE WORD HATE THERE, AS WE WELL KNOW, DOESN'T MEAN HOSTILITY; IT MEANS TO LOVE LESS. BUT IF THAT IS IN PLACE, THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, THEN ANY WIFE WHO IS BEING LOVED TO THAT DEGREE BY A HUSBAND SHOULD REALIZE SHE'S ON A PEDESTAL. SHE'S NOT BEING Demeaned IN ANY WAY. SHE'S ON A PEDESTAL. BECAUSE THE ADMONITION TO LOVE YOUR WIVES AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH, HOW MUCH DID HE LOVE THE CHURCH? WELL, PAUL SAYS HE GAVE HIMSELF FOR HER. HE SHED HIS BLOOD TO PURCHASE THE CHURCH. AND SO THAT CONTEXT FROM EPHESIANS 5:22 AND FORWARD, AND THERE'S OTHER SCRIPTURAL ADVICE THAT ONE COULD CITE AND ADMONITION, BUT THAT ONE SUMS IT UP TO ME BETTER THAN ANY OTHER UNINSPIRED ADVICE ONE COULD GIVE. AND ANY UNINSPIRED ADVICE YOU GIVE THAT CONTRADICTS THAT ADVICE IS ADVICE YOU DON'T NEED TO HEED; YOU NEED TO IGNORE IT.

>> WELL, IT IS TRUE. SOMETIMES WE WANT TO LOOK TO THE SO-CALLED EXPERTS TO HELP US WITH PROBLEMS IN OUR MARRIAGE, PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR KIDS OR WITH OTHERS. BUT THE ONE WHO IS THE

AUTHORITY AND THE EXPERT ON ALL THINGS IS THE GOD WHO ACTUALLY CREATED US AND CREATED THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE. AND SO I THINK THAT'S AN EXCELLENT POINT THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT OUT TODAY IN THE PROGRAM.

>> WELL, ANY ADVICE THAT WE FEEL LIKE WE NEED TO SEEK IN A MARRIAGE, LIKE COUNSELING FOR PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE OR WHATEVER, IN SEEKING THAT ADVICE, FIRST OF ALL, GO TO THE SCRIPTURES; BUT IF YOU ARE GOING TO SEEK SOME HELP FROM A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR, YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT MARRIAGE COUNSELOR IS GOING TO BE GIVING YOU ADVICE IN HARMONY WITH WHAT THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES.

>> EXACTLY. BECAUSE SO MANY OUT THERE, THEY COME FROM A WORLDLY PERSPECTIVE.

>> EXACTLY.

>> AND SO IT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE SEEK ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRULY WISE; AND THOSE WHO ARE TRULY WISE ARE THOSE WHO WALK ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, AND THUS COUNSEL ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.

>> AND WANT TO PRESERVE A MARRIAGE RATHER THAN TO BE QUICK TO DISSOLVE ONE.

>> EXCELLENT THOUGHTS TODAY. THANK YOU, JIM.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THAT WAS SOME EXCELLENT ADVICE. THANKS, GENTLEMEN. WE'VE GOT A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO START EVERY DAY, AND THAT'S WITH THE GOOD NEWS TODAY PODCAST. JUST SEARCH FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS, AND START EVERY DAY WITH YOUR DAILY DOSE OF GOOD NEWS. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO GUYTON MONTGOMERY AND TROY SPRADLIN.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR GUYTON AND TROY: DOES PERSECUTION IN THE LORD'S CHURCH OCCUR IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

>> TROY, IF YOU WERE TO BE ASKED WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN PERSECUTED OR NOT, WOULD YOU BE VERY HESITANT TO SAY YES?

>> YES, I WOULD BE, BECAUSE YOU KNOW, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY PERSECUTION? I MEAN, WHEN I THINK OF PERSECUTION, I THINK ABOUT WHAT I READ IN THE BIBLE.

>> EXACTLY. AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK ABOUT; BUT THEY GET CONFUSED BECAUSE OF SOME SCRIPTURES THAT TALK ABOUT PERSECUTION. SO THE QUESTION COMES TODAY, DOES PERSECUTION IN THE LORD'S CHURCH OCCUR IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

>> OH, WOW, YEAH.

>> AND SO I BELIEVE, TROY, THERE'S TWO WAYS WE NEED TO EXAMINE THIS. THE FIRST I WANT TO GO TO IS TO THINK ABOUT IT FROM US AS AMERICANS, REALIZING THAT MOST PEOPLE THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE LORD'S CHURCH THAT ARE WATCHING THIS SHOW, MAJORITY ARE IN AMERICA. WE DO GO OTHER PLACES THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD, BUT WE KNOW THE MAJORITY OF OUR AUDIENCE IS AMERICANS. WELL, HERE IN AMERICA, WE DON'T SEE CHRISTIANS BEING IMPRISONED BECAUSE THEY'RE A CHRISTIAN. DURING COVID, I WONDERED. I'VE SEEN THAT IN SOME PLACES. BUT IN AMERICA, WE DON'T GET FED TO LIONS, WE'RE NOT BEING BEATEN.

>> OR EVEN PROHIBITED, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS YOU FROM WORSHIP AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

>> EXACTLY. SO IT'S HARD FOR US TO COMPREHEND WHAT WE READ OF IN THE BIBLE AND PERSECUTION. AND IF WE'RE ASKED, ARE YOU PERSECUTED? WE'D BE LIKE, NO.

>> IT DOES STILL HAPPEN IN THE WORLD TODAY, BECAUSE IF YOU TRY GOING PLACES LIKE LET'S SAY NORTH KOREA, EVEN IN CHINA AND PLACES LIKE THAT, YOU CAN'T JUST OPENLY WORSHIP OR OPENLY PRACTICE CHRISTIANITY.

>> YEAH. AND I THINK THAT'S SOMETIMES UNFORTUNATE, WE THINK ABOUT THE CHURCH, WE ONLY THINK ABOUT IT HERE IN AMERICA. BECAUSE YOU GO OTHER PLACES, THERE ARE CHRISTIANS THAT ARE DYING.

>> AND SUFFERING SEVERELY, YEAH.

>> AND BEING IMPRISONED JUST TO FOLLOW AFTER THE LORD. SO TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, DOES PERSECUTION OF THE LORD'S CHURCH OCCUR IN THIS DAY AND AGE? YES. YES, IT DOES. DO WE EXPERIENCE IT HERE IN AMERICA IN THAT SAME WAY? TYPICALLY NOT. BUT THERE'S A PASSAGE, 1ST TIMOTHY 3:12, YEA, AND ALL THAT WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION.

>> YEAH. LET ME ADD JOHN 15:20, REMEMBER THE WORD I SAID TO YOU: A SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER. IF THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU.

>> AND I ACTUALLY HEARD SOMEBODY SAY ONE TIME, IT WAS LIKE, WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT BEING PERSECUTED, YOU'RE NOT LIVING GODLY ENOUGH. WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL WITH THAT, BECAUSE I'D HATE FOR SOMEBODY TO GO OUT AND LIKE SUDDENLY BE LIKE, LET ME START OFFENDING PEOPLE SO I GET PERSECUTED.

>> RIGHT.

>> NO. THERE ARE PERSECUTIONS THAT WE SUFFER AT TIMES AS PREACHERS. THERE ARE TIMES THAT PEOPLE ATTACK US BECAUSE OF THE MESSAGE WE PREACH.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> THEY DON'T LIKE IT, SO THEY TURN AROUND AND WILL SAY THINGS ABOUT US. THEY WILL BE DEMEANING IN SOME WAYS. AND MAN, I FEEL CRUMMY TO EVEN COMPARE THAT TO PERSECUTION I READ IN THE BIBLE.

>> BUT SERIOUSLY, THERE'S EVEN BROTHERS WHO ARE SHUNNED, WHERE THEY'RE NOT INVITED SOMEPLACE OR THEY'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DO SOMETHING OR THEY'RE NOT INCLUDED BECAUSE PEOPLE KNOW THAT THEY ARE CHRISTIAN.

>> EXACTLY. AND SO IS THAT A FORM OF PERSECUTION FOR FOLLOWING AFTER CHRIST? YES. AND I DO BELIEVE THAT ALL THAT LIVE GODLY WILL SUFFER IN SOME WAY HERE ON THIS EARTH BECAUSE OF THE DECISIONS YOU'RE MAKING TO FOLLOW AFTER THE LORD. SO DOES PERSECUTION EXIST IN THE LORD'S CHURCH TODAY IN THIS DAY AND AGE? IT MOST CERTAINLY DOES IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER.

>> AMEN.

>> FOR OUR VIEWERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, IF YOU'VE BEEN PERSECUTED FOR YOUR CHRISTIANITY, SEND US AN EMAIL, TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES. WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU EVEN BETTER. AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO ALWAYS CHECK ALL RELIGIOUS TEACHING AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD TO SEE IF THESE THINGS ARE SO. CHECK US, MAKE SURE WE'RE TELLING YOU THE TRUTH. AND YOU CAN WATCH OR LISTEN TO OUR PROGRAM AGAIN IF YOU NEED TO HEAR IT AGAIN, HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME TO CHECK THE SCRIPTURES. YOU CAN HEAR IT ON OUR WEBSITE, OUR APPS, OR OUR PODCAST. WE EVEN HAVE TRANSCRIPTS AVAILABLE ON OUR APPS AND ON OUR WEBSITE. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE MAY EVEN ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ON THE AIR. REMEMBER THAT WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY