

Living in Unprecedented Times, Part 3

Matthew 24:1-3

Living in Unprecedented Times Series

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus we are living in unprecedented times.

A) We are navigating in uncharted WATERS right now.

B) Stats World wide as of Friday – over 278k confirmed cases

1) Tragically - Over 11k deaths

C) Close to 90K have recovered.

Locally here in San Diego

A) As of Friday – 131 cases and thankfully – no deaths

B) Serious stuff – we can't take this lightly

1) Be safe than sorry.

C) When this first started someone asked me if I was going to keep preaching through our Transcendent series?

What I felt God laid on my heart was to Preach to the moment!

A) We will finish the Transcendent series at some point – but for the time being –

B) Our Sunday morning messages and Wednesday evening messages

1) Are going to be focused on helping us **all navigate these uncharted waters** the best way we can as followers of Jesus

My hope is that these messages will Encourage your heart – to not panic to not be filled with fear.

A) My prayer is that these messages will Inspire your heart

B) And Give you perspective of what this means for us Biblically as followers of Jesus Christ

1) how we are to live during these times

C) Give you some practical ideas on how we can BE THE CHURCH to our culture during these times

D) Let your light so shine..... This is our time to SHINE

So today in Part 3 of Living in unprecedented times –

A) I want us to consider what this means for us – 3 Vantage points

- Prophetically
- Personally
- Publicly –

#1 What does this mean Prophetically?

A) I mentioned this last week – Jesus said **in Matthew 24:7 that the last days there would be pestilences and diseases in various places**

When you see these things happening – freak out? No Look up your redemption draws nigh

B) I think at least on some level – this is an example of that – **Virus that is literally affecting the entire world at this time.**

C) Throughout the history of mankind In times of Crisis people tend to turn to the God

1) or they at least start thinking about God.

D) For years – **the church has been talking about Revival**

1) the need for a major outpouring of God's spirit upon the world

E) We have been Longing for and praying for that great outpouring –

If you study Revival history –

A) It interesting to note that Revival usually happens in the context of some kind of social upheaval

B) Something going on in culture that sort of shakes society and shakes people out of their comfort zones

C) Brings the reality of their own mortality into the forefront of people's minds.

D) And Revival is a time when idols get torn down

I was thinking about this earlier this week –

A) This Virus has literally torn down the idols our culture has propped up over the years.

B)And idol is anything that you focus on or trust in more than God

C)Zechariah prophesied of something the Lord would do in the latter days – he said

“It shall be in that day,” says the LORD of hosts, “*that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered.*”

Zechariah 13:2

D)I think what we are experiencing is a PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

This Virus has torn down the idols of the Entertainment industry.

A)the Sporting world and the financial markets -

B)Let me be clear – I am not suggesting that if you enjoy watching a good movie

1)or a sporting event – you are an idolater

C)Or if you are invested in the stock market you are committing idolatry

1)There is nothing in and of those things themselves that is wrong –

D)But for many people in culture – **Entertainment is their focus**

1)Their sports teams are what they are living for –

E)And for many all over the world – It is their investments that they are trusting in

Here we have seen in one week – the Entertainment industry has shut down.

A)Movie sets are closed – no movies or TV shows being filmed

B)People can’t escape to the movies – movie theaters are shut down.

C)I was even reading article the other day – **how Porn sets are being shut down.**

1)The Porn industry is one of the biggest industries globally –

D)wouldn’t it be amazing if it was wiped out by the Corona Virus ? - **I Hear you clapping at home**

E)If some of you kids are wondering – what is Porn

1)It is where people watch and do bad things – things that grieve the heart of God. – all you need to know

So this Virus has torn down the idol of the Entertainment industry

A)The Sporting world has shut down – NO GAMES – SEASONS CANCELED –

B)The Stock market is in upheaval – and there is economic uncertainty all over the globe.

C)Some people are even suggesting that this Virus could usher in the Cashless society

1)that the Bible prophesies will happen in the last days

D)Cash is dirty – Cash is Virus and germ carrier – NO LONGER TAKING CASH.

E)And there are already voices out there saying – we need to remove Cash and go to a Cashless society

1)It would not surprise me at all if the world moves rapidly in that direction.

Obvious that God is allowing us to be shaken – that we might seek him more passionately

A)I think God’s word to the nation of Israel in the past is applicable to the entire world at this time

¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

B)Church lets humble ourselves and search our hearts – ask the Lord to forgive you of complacency,

1)Be honest with the Lord if your focus has been more on something else besides him

C)Be honest if your trust has been on something other than the Lord – repent of that

D)If Christians around the world do that as a whole

1)I believe that we will see RADICAL Revival

E)LET’S SEEK THE LORD AND PRESS INTO HIM – LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

So that is how these unprecedented times relate to us Prophetically - **What about personally?**

I want to talk for a few minutes about Isolation.

A)Some of us hate isolation – we hate having to slow down and be still

B)But it is almost as if the Lord is causing the entire world RIGHT NOW to go on a forced Sabbath

C)To Be Still and KNOW THAT HE IS GOD!

D)We have been ordered here in CA to stay at home – to hunker down.

1)To isolate.

This is something that I have been thinking about A LOT this week as well.

A)We see in the Bible how God often used isolation in someone's life in a very profound way.

B)Jesus, Paul, Elijah, Joseph, John the Baptist – David –**ALL were put in times of isolation that God used in their lives in a great way.**

C)David wrote some great Psalms that we read and sing and Take comfort in – during times of isolation

1)Sometimes that isolation was voluntary – he was getting alone with God

D)But at other times it was forced –

1)He was being chased around the countryside by a crazy king – forced to hide out in Caves.

John the Disciple was banished to the Island of Patmos – completely Isolated – r

A)Result – The Lord gave him the book of Revelation

B)Now I am not suggesting that in this time of isolation you are going to suddenly be recruited by the Lord **to write inspired scripture** –

C)**The Bible is complete** – But it is in this time of isolation – that the Lord wants to personally draw near to you.

1)Speak to you to you **in that still small voice** –

In fact sometimes it takes the isolation for us to hear the still small voice of the Lord

A)We see this in the life of the prophet 1 Kings 19 Elijah. – JESSE

B)**Elijah was fleeing for his life** from a wicked Queen who had promised to kill him

C)He ran to Horeb which is called the Mountain of God. He is hiding in a cave – the Bible says there was a strong wind... Lord was not in the wind

D)And then there was an earthquake – not in the earthquake- Then a Fire – the Lord was not in the fire

I think this story is so interesting because often times we are looking for God in the circumstances happening around us –

A)We get focused on the Horizontal – the happenings – the circumstances –

B)When what we really need is to go VERTICAL – to be still before him and know that he is God – HE IS NEAR!

C)That is EXACTLY what happened to ELIJAH.

1)Once he realized the Lord wasn't in what was happening around him Wind/fire/ earthquake

D)It was then that he quieted his heart and the Lord spoke to him in a still small voice.

Church can I encourage you to LEAN INTO this time of isolation?

A)God is allowing this – and I believe with all of my heart part of The reason is to KNIT OUR HEART CLOSER TO HIM!

B)He is causing us to Be still – slow down – seek him more intently.

C)Encourage you to do that – Allow the Lord to speak to your heart in that still small voice

1)In Prayer and in the word

You could use this as a time to binge on Netflix and waste your time watching endless TV shows-movies

A)You could use this time to busy yourself and complete that house project that you have been putting off for a long time.

B)But can I encourage you during this time – to make your TOP priority

1)To use this time to press into the Lord

C)To Draw closer to the Lord – Seek him with all your heart

Hebrews 11:6 – We are told that God is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

A)How does he reward us – INTIMACY!

29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul” Deuteronomy 4:29

I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. Proverbs 8:17

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

We want to help you to seek the Lord with all of your heart

A)Beginning this Wednesday we are going to start sending out a Bible study that myself and some of the other pastors in the church are writing

B)The Subject is isolation – MORE INDEPTH – than the devos – this will not be video – study

1)Help you get into the word on your own

C)We are going to put out one study each week

1)looking at how the Lord used isolation in different people lives in scripture

D)These Bible studies will arrive in your email every Wednesday morning

They will be designed as something you can use together as a family –

A)For those of you who are single – you can use these with friends

B)Do them together over face time or Zoom

C)But the FOCUS is going to be to help create a way for the Lord to speak to you in that still small voice.

We are going to send these to everyone on our email database –

A)if you are not in our database – you can go to our website – join our mailing list

B)These will go out to everyone - Unless you don't want to receive them - -

1)you can email us and let us know

C)For the next 2 months or so, each one of these Bible studies are going to focus on – the subject of Isolation

D)What we can learn from some of the different Bible Characters about -

1)How God met them in times of Isolation

E)We will see in these studies how Isolation can actually be a good thing.

Consider these promises from the Lord for those who seek him and wait on him.

- **Renewed strength** - Isaiah 40:31
- **Gladness** - 1 Chronicles 16:10
- **Deliverance from fear** - Psalm 34:5
- **Discernment, Understanding, Wisdom** - Prov 2:3-6
- **Blessing** - Lamentations 3:21-25
- **Joy** - Isaiah 49:23
- **Satisfaction** - Psalm 27:4-5

So church I want to encourage you to lean into this time of forced Sabbath –

A)This time of isolation – And Seek the Lord

B)I know that is easier said than done for some of you especially with the kiddos at home too -

C)So we will be giving some more practical ways to help you do that. –

1)Keep your eyes opened for that email Bible study coming to you this week.

Because here is the fact about this Virus – this storm is going to pass church – it will –

A)China where it started –is starting to get back to normal after 2 months

B)We are going to come out of this – but the question is how are we going to come out of this!

1)Personally - How are you going to come out of this.

C)Closer to the Lord? Stronger in your intimacy and relationship?

1)Stronger in your faith?

D) Or weaker – and more distant – from the Lord? Because you simply wasted your time.

E) Is the remainder of this storm going to just be ONE BIG INCONVENIENCE IN YOUR LIFE

1) Or is it going to be a time WITH great intentionality lean into the Lord like never before? –

I really hope and pray that for each of personally The church corporately – globally

A) That what the church would pray like never before – passionately seek the Lord.

B) Seek the Lord like never before!

C) God would deepen us and widen us – and do a work in the world – never been seen before

D) So that is what these unprecedented times mean for us – Prophetically – Shaking

1) Personally – Time to draw near

What about Publicly?

A) Publicly - Our place in this world – Even in this time of forced isolation – stay at home order

B) Two applications – First with our fellow bros/sisters in the Lord

1) 2nd with the public at large. Your neighbors – people you work with

C) First let us talk about – the Body our Brothers and sisters

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

This verse needs to take on a new meaning for us during this time

A) Not forsake?

B) Isolation is one thing – but detachment is another.

1) Don't detach church – OPPOSITE attach yourself to each other

C) **Starts by - Consider one another**

- Consider = be attentive toward each other

- Be intentional about connecting with and checking in on our brothers and sisters

D) Sharing these devotions – sharing words of encouragement – Praying for each other

1) Fellowship – sharing in common. – Virus Home isolation – JESUS

You know someone who is elderly and alone – call them check in on them.

A) You know someone who is single – alone – call them reach out to them.

B) Far away – reach out to them

Galatians 6:2 ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

A) This is a time like no other where we need to bear one another's burdens –

B) Be open to call – listen – hear – someone is down – or afraid-

1) we need to love on them and encourage them.

C) Marines - **No one left behind – our mentality**

Beginning this week – our church staff and many volunteers are going to be calling all 3,000 plus people in our database

A) Check in – encourage them – see how we can be praying for them. – See if they have any Physical needs -

B) A couple of weeks from now – we will repeat that. Again

C) Consider one another – stay connected to each other

But the writer of Hebrews admonishes us to Consider one another and to Stir up one another to love and good works

- Love for Jesus – focus and commitment - #3
- LOVE AND GOOD WORKS

A) Love for others our community – acts of service and words of encouragement

B) Last week – For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

Not given us a spirit of fear – Has given us - Power

C)Greek scholar Jerry Vine describes power as an ability for meeting difficulties, for the fulfilment of the service committed to us.

One of the ways that we will overcome our fears and avoid getting distracted and off track during this time

A)It is when we realize – there is a CALLING from the Lord that has been committed to by the Lord

B)This is a time for the Church to Shine – “Let your light so shine before men..... good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.

C)THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE –

1)Lighthouses in the midst of the storm – pointing to the safety, Hope, peace that is found in Jesus

How do we do that?

A)One of the best ways in the midst of this is to not FREAK OUT

B)Peace dispensers – Our countenance

C)Looking to help – and seeing how we can serve in this season

Ways to Help others during this season of need.

1. Don't Horde

- Be ready to donate food or supplies to neighbors who have lost their jobs during this time.

Blessed to be a Blessing –

➤ **Food banks – Church food pantries**

2. Be Available

- Offer to help those around you especially those who are at-risk neighbors or elderly or have health issues. Offer to go to the store or pharmacy – do yard work, walk their dog

3. Stay Connected

- Stay in close communication with friends, family, and neighbors – just to check in and see how they are coping.

4. Stay Informed

- Help pass on information that you know is truthful. There is a lot of fake news being spread around right now.

5. Give Blood

- The Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible blood donors to schedule a donation to maintain a sufficient supply of blood products for those in need.

6. Be Patient

- Be aware that everyone handles situations like this differently

7. PRAY

- Sign up for 24 hour prayer movement this week. You can take a 15minute spot

Church we are living in unprecedented times – But we are going to make it out of this.

A)The Question that remains to be seen is this –

B)What will be the condition of our heart when we come out the other side?

C)Shaken or Strengthened

D)Wrecked or Renewed?

Final question: Are you prepared to die

A)Pandemic has caused us to wonder – what if I died today?

B)It is a tragedy that anyone has died from this Virus – Pray for those who have lost a loved one

C)REALITY – All of you listening to this message are going to die one day.

Are you ready to meet God!

A)Jesus – Said I am the way the truth and life no man comes to the father except through me

B)Absolute statement – proved – death and Resurrection

C)Knocking at the door of your heart.

Pray

**If you prayed – let us know – Test 619 337 -4385
FB Life**

Email us at info@calvaryvista.com