

THE BIG IDEA: Apathy is the enemy of destiny.

The Take-Off

This morning, we'll be in [Luke 12:35-48](#) and we'll be talking about one of the greatest threats facing the church, not just today, but even back in the days of Jesus (which is why He spoke about it!).

This threat that we need to guard ourselves against is what I would consider kind of like quicksand to the soul.

It has a way of gripping you, and holding you until you have no strength or desire to fight it.

The threat? Apathy.

Apathy is deadly. It has a way of grabbing us and sucking the life right out of us.

The worst part? Since apathy is a lack of caring, apathetic people don't really care that they're apathetic!

What does apathy look like? Here's an idea:

[Image / Apathy Demotivator]

Our enemy knows that if he can turn our lives into big giant wreckages of apathy, then he'll not need to fear us at all.

Jesus knows this, too, and that's why He warned against it.

Listen to what He said...

Read [Luke 12:35-48](#).

Our Big Idea sums up why we've got to guard against apathy. It's because **apathy is the enemy of destiny**.

God can - and does - have the best plans for you and for me, but if we're filled with apathy, we don't even care to pursue them.

How does our enemy keep us from fulfilling God's destiny in our lives? Keep us from ever pursuing it, and that's what apathy does.

So, let's put a couple of guardrails in place that will keep us from being apathy wrecks.

1. GUARDRAIL ONE: PEOPLE

- a. ["Alarms and dead arms"]
- b. One of the least appreciated and yet most important things in our lives would be the alarm clock, right?
- c. Alarms wake us up and keep us up, and more times that not, people are the best alarms.
- d. People have a way of pointing out when we're nodding off.
- e. People keep us from going over the cliff of apathy.
- f. [Proverbs 27:17](#) says that we sharpen each other like iron sharpens iron.
- g. Sparks, heat, friction. These are all alarms that happen through the guardrail of people.
- h. It's so appropriate that we're talking about this on Mother's Day, because if anybody has the ability to make us care, it's mom, right?
- i. Sit up straight! Tuck your shirt in! Comb your hair!
- j. If apathy is the enemy of destiny, moms are the enemy to apathy, right!
- k. Moms help us be prepared.
- l. They clean our faces with their own spit!!!
- m. They iron, they wash, they whisper encouragement in our ears.
- n. They believe in us and spur us on to greatness.
- o. **[Video / The Mom Fairy]**
- p. Moms personify [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)
- q. PEOPLE are an EXTERNAL guardrail - it's the text or phone call, the uncomfortable coffee conversation that grabs your attention and says, "Come on! Let's go! You've got a destiny to fulfill and I BELIEVE IN YOU!!"
- r. We know about moms, but who are the people in your life who have guarded you from apathy and when was the last time you thanked them for it?
- s. Today would be a great day to do just that.

2. GUARDRAIL TWO: PURPOSE

- a. If people are the external guardrail, is there an internal guardrail that can keep us from the kind of disqualifying apathy that Jesus talked about in our passage?
- b. I believe that there is, and the internal guardrail is PURPOSE.
- c. All of us can relate to the feeling that there's more, that we're not done
- d. I love the verses found in [Joshua 14:10-12](#)

- e. At 85 years old, Caleb was still saying, “Put me in, Coach!”
- f. Most people tend to slow down as they age, but not Caleb.
- g. There was no quit in Caleb because there was no quitter in Caleb! He was filled with purpose!
- h. So are we.
- i. Not only is there an eternal purpose (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**), but as followers of Jesus, we have truth in us that must come out, and that is a purpose that can keep us going!
- j. **Acts 4:20** / we HAVE to speak!
- k. **Jeremiah 20:9** / I cannot hold it in!
- l. **2 Corinthians 5:14** / Paul was compelled!
- m. When we begin to feel apathetic about the gospel, the correction is to remember our purpose.
- n. We were born for this, and that means we will not stop until we are through.

The Landing

When I think of people and purpose as guardrails, I always think of my mom.

The times when I know I hurt her because I didn't have the same passion she had.

The times when she would tell me that I would be her preacher and I would just laugh.

My mom was a guardrail in my life, and she prepared me for my purpose.

She knew that **apathy is the enemy of destiny**, and so she made sure I would be “dressed ready for service” with my “lamp burning.”

She knew that the best way to be ready for what's next is by being faithful to what's now.

She instilled that in me because she lived it in front of me.

She knew that if we kept apathy away, then faithfulness in little things every day would ensure that I'd be ready whenever the Lord called.

And I was. And you will be, too.

Be ready then by being faithful now, and thank the Lord for the PEOPLE and the PURPOSE that He's given you to fired up about His plans for and through you.

Let's pray.