

THE BIG IDEA: Don't let distractions remove the attraction.The Take-Off

This morning we're putting the finishing touches on our 5 week miniseries called [GUARDRAILS] based on Jesus' teaching in Luke 12.

We don't need to recap it all, but let's remember what guardrails are for and why they're so important.

Guardrails serve to keep us from something far more dangerous.

They cause some damage - some discomfort - in order to keep us from total wreckage, and Jesus talks about 5 things that we need to guard ourselves from: so far we've talked about HYPOCRISY, GREED, ANXIETY and APATHY.

This morning, we want to wrap it up talking about one last danger that we need guardrails to protect us from, and that is the danger of distraction.

Full disclosure, you're never going to hear the word "distraction" when we read Luke 12:49-59, but it's in there, and it's deadly.

Let's read it, and then talk through 2 distractions and the guardrails that can protect us from them.

Listen to what He said...

Read [Luke 12:49-59](#).

Jesus ends this Luke 12 teaching by referencing His mission and His frustration that it wasn't completed yet ("how I wish it was already kindled!") and also that He was committed to completing it ("I have a baptism to undergo").

Jesus had a mission, and now Jesus is our mission. He's the goal that we're running the race for, and He mentions 2 distractions that can keep US from completing OUR mission: drama and deadlines.

Specifically, it's our tendency to participate in drama and procrastinate over deadlines that can take us off the path, and so here are 2 guardrails that can protect us.

1. GUARDRAIL ONE: Increasing tension about Jesus

- a. Admittedly, verses 51-53 can sound a little "un-Jesus" like, can't they?
- b. Every Christmas we hear about peace on earth and now Jesus is saying that He didn't come to bring peace
- c. What does this even mean?
- d. The meaning of this Greek word - only used once in the NT here in v. 51 - is more about focus than fighting
- e. It's a statement of allegiance, not animosity, so Jesus isn't saying hate your momma as much as He's saying love Him enough to push through the drama of relationships over Him
- f. We've got to get that last part: this isn't about just the distraction of relationship drama
- g. There's tons of that, and often self-inflicted!
- h. Jesus is saying that we need to pay attention to the guardrail of INCREASING TENSION ABOUT HIM
- i. You've experienced this, right?
- j. When we go all in as followers of Jesus, we often experience increasing tension in the relationships that mean the most to us.
- k. Parents tell their teens to stop being so fanatical about their faith.
- l. Children get embarrassed by their parents' public displays of devotion toward Jesus.
- m. It's easy to allow families to throttle our commitment to Jesus, and that's what Jesus is warning us about.
- n. Pay attention to the tension! Let that be the guardrail that alerts you to the danger of choosing to be distracted by the drama instead of sharpening your focus on Jesus.

2. GUARDRAIL TWO: Decreasing time for Jesus

- a. If I asked you to rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 about how likely you are to procrastinate, what score would you give yourself? Your family? Your spouse? Your best friend?
- b. Jesus mentions the need to reconcile with the person taking you to court before you get to the court, but I think Jesus is explaining something a lot more common than court.
- c. He's talking about the second guardrail that can help us eliminate distractions: decreasing time, and specifically, decreasing time for Jesus.
- d. Think about it: if you knew that your neighbor was going to die tomorrow and your neighbor didn't know Jesus, what would you be doing tonight with your neighbor?
- e. Probably not watching a game and shooting the breeze, right?
- f. Decreasing time narrows our focus on the mission.

- g. Realizing that we have a limited amount left can keep us from getting tangled up in the distraction of procrastination.
- h. There is simply no more time to wait.
- i. Even Jesus understood this guardrail, and referenced it in the middle of a weird encounter that included sin and spit, and He said in John 9:4 that we must work while it's day because night is coming and no one works at night.
- j. His point? Decreasing time is a guardrail to get us back on the road, away from distractions and busy about the things that matter the most.
- k. [VIDEO / Harry says goodbye]

The Landing

In Ephesians 5, Paul wrote about the distractions of drama and deadlines.

He warned us not to partner with those who wish us harm to make the most of every opportunity - a phrase that literally means to "own the time we have"

As we land this miniseries, let me challenge you to own the time you have, and refuse to allow drama or deadlines to distract you from what - or I should say, WHO - matters most.

Our attraction is Jesus, and we can't afford to allow distractions to remove the attraction.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus and refuse to allow any distraction to keep us from our attraction to Him.

Let's pray.