

Go and Tell Sessions

“*Fearless Faith*”

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from the book *Fearless Faith* by John Fischer 2002 Harvest House Publishers

Part 2 of a 5 part Series

The thesis of *Fearless Faith*

“... we as Christians need to learn to *embrace* the danger of living in a dangerous world and trust not a safe subculture to protect us, but a praying Savior.” John says that this is the only way we can go into the world with a *fearless faith* and a mission to love, serve, and manifest the good news.

The World

1. The world is a dangerous place, spiritually speaking
 - a. Remember Jesus’ prayer in John 17 - that the Father would *protect* us, and that He would *protect* us from the evil one (Satan).
 - b. In our culture, Christians “must now contend with a level of hostility that dominates the borders between Christians and non-Christians.” (@p. 81)
 - c. The world is a dangerous place because Christians have often approached things as “us against the world” (*e.g.*, Halloween)
 - d. Other factors:
 - (1). We live in a post-modern world where there is your truth and my truth.
 - (2). The world is not knowledgeable about God and the Bible.
 - (3). We live in a time of religious pluralism.
 - (4). There are those of other faiths who would want Christians dead.
 - e. There is true *spiritual warfare* going on against a real enemy.
2. The world is full of unrighteousness
 - a. There is plenty of sin, debauchery, evil and evil-doing all around us. Our tendency is to try to get away from it and insulate ourselves from it; to retreat.
 - b. The perceived danger is that of becoming infected by the unrighteousness that is around us, and that seems to have saturated our culture. An attempted cure is to fight the unrighteousness via politics.
 - c. We tend to forget that change can only come from a heart that is changed.
3. The world is asking questions which we are not answering. Put another way, we are answering questions the world is not asking.
 - a. “... our faith needs to be tested by the real questions of both our own lives and the lives of non-Christians around us, and too many of us are not listening to them.” (@p. 112)
 - b. We can therefore tend to see people of the world not as valuable in and of themselves, but only as potential converts.
 - c. Questions of meaning and about life are posed in various ways all around us (*e.g.*, in the arts), but we tend to shut ourselves off from these things.
4. God is in the world, and He has been there all along
 - a. God is not stuck in our sub-culture box. “Certainly this same God would not find himself limited to what we now label as *Christian* to make his presence known.” (@p. 182)
 - b. God is in the world in His people.

- c. . “If we look at the world and don’t see God,” John writes, “it’s not because he isn’t there; we just haven’t learned how to see him outside of the context where we are more used to seeing him.” (@p. 184)
5. We are in the days of salvation
 - a. The day of God’s judgment has been postponed. II Peter 3:9b
 - b. “God did not postpone judgment so that we could be judgmental in his place.” (@p. 140)
 - c. Recognizing this reality and living it means that we need not live a “defensive” Christianity, but instead be bearers and announcers of God’s grace, and ambassadors of reconciliation. II Cor. 5:18-20.
6. What do items 1-5 above have to do with a fearless faith?
 - a. “If faith is to address what we actually do in the world, then one of two things has to happen: either we get a bigger, more fearless faith - a faith that actually does connect up with all of life - or we have to go back to a more restricted lifestyle where faith and life remain separate, safe, and small.” (@p. 115)
 - b. We need to be in the world with our faith.
 - c. We need to understand the world.
 - d. We need to be “focused on people in the world and their need.” (@p. 117)
 - e. The world is the place where we are witnesses.

Questions about the world

1. Is the world, and our culture in particular, a dangerous place for Christians?
2. Is the world, and our culture in particular, a dangerous place for you? How?
3. Do you want to retreat from the world and the culture around you? Is that because of fear and a desire for safety?
4. What do you think about the unrighteousness around you?
5. In what ways have you seen God at work in the world?
6. What does it mean to you that we are in the day of salvation and not the day of judgment?