

# "When Terror Hits Home"

Justin Worden – September 12, 2007  
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Terrorist Attacks in NY on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> (9/11/01)

**John 10:10 = "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (NASB)**

## I. Remembering Terrorism

- a. Newspapers headlines:
  - i. *Deaths Could Hit 6,000*
  - ii. *Terror Hits Home*
  - iii. *A Quiet Anger*
  - iv. *Bush Vows Retribution*
  - v. *The Hour is Coming*
  - vi. *"We're Got Them On the Run"*
- b. **Barna.org** stats = *Five Years Later: 9/11 Attacks Show No Lasting Influence on Americans' Faith*
  - i. The change most widely reported was a significant spike in church attendance, with some churches experiencing more than double their normal crowd on the Sunday after the shocking event. However, by the time January 2002 rolled around, churchgoing was back to pre-attack levels, and has remained consistent in the five years since.
  - ii. There has been slow, steady growth in the percentage of born again Christians, but this is part of a generational trend - i.e., Boomers becoming more committed to Jesus Christ. The pre-attack, post-attack proportions of born again Christians was identical -42% in July of 2001 and 42% in October of 2001.
- c. Do you remember where you were?
  - i. Terrorism is not forgotten! (Makes impact)
  - ii. **Satan** works the same way (Ult. Terrorist)

## II. Realizing Terrorism

- a. FP headlines say it all... but what headlines are on the paper of your life:
  - i. The Crews Daily News
  - ii. The Shelby Sun Sentinel
  - iii. The Kyndall Eagle
  - iv. The Sheena Times
- b. How do we react when terror hits home in our lives (compared to the 9/11 stats)?
  - i. The director of the Barna study, David Kinnaman, put the findings in context. "Many Christian leaders predicted that terrorism on U.S. soil would catalyze a spiritual awakening in the country. The first few weeks were promising. But people quickly returned to their standard, faith-as-usual lives: within a month, most of their spiritual fervor was gone. Within 90 days, surprisingly few people were pursuing important questions about faith and spirituality. Now, five years removed from that fateful day, spiritually speaking, it's as if nothing significant ever happened. People used faith like a giant band - aid - it helped people deal with the ugliness of the event but it offered little in the way of deep healing and it was discarded after a brief period of use."
- c. What is terrorism? (violence, intimidation)
- d. Who is terrorism? (Evil comes from one place)
  - i. Eph 6:16 = In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

## III. Resisting Terrorism

- a. God's Insurance Plan
  - i. Not fire insurance (no hell for me) or death insurance (where I'm going to go when I die) = life insurance (living for God)

- ii. Proverbs 8:13 = "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate"
- iii. No Swirls Allowed (ilumina devotional)

Ice cream can sometimes be bought in a "swirl"—a mix of two flavors, usually chocolate and vanilla. It's for those who can't decide on one or the other, or who like both equally well, or who like the mix itself. But what is good in ice cream is bad in moral habits. Proverbs 8 is a call to make right choices—to hate evil. There is no mixing of good and evil here. Other proverbs in this chapter teach us why wisdom is more valuable than gold and even priceless.

#### PERSONAL APPLICATION

"All who fear the Lord will hate evil. That is why I hate pride, arrogance, corruption, and perverted speech" (Proverbs 8:13). Most of us have a mix of love and hate for evil. We know we should hate lying and hypocrisy, yet there are times when they come in handy. We know we should love sexual purity and honesty, yet there are times when our minds turn to impure thoughts, and deceit seems less painful than being honest. Respect for God clears away the inconsistencies. Think about the place God deserves to have in your life, and fear the consequences of not giving him proper place. When you make the decision to love God wholeheartedly, love for sin will not be able to coexist in your life.

- iv. We've got this LIFE Insurance... we can work as a team for the things that matter for eternity, things that matter to God
- b. The rest of the verse... "But God's purpose was to come and give life (the fullest kind of life)"
  - i. The thieves take life; the shepherd gives it. **Life** here refers to eternal life, God's life. It speaks not only of endlessness, but of quality of life. With Christ, life on earth can reach much higher quality, and then in heaven it will be complete and perfect. (Compact Bible Commentary)
- c. When Terror Hits Home:
  - i. Become a Team
    - 1. stand together / "united we stand"
    - 2. be yourself... be the body part
      - a. review spiritual gifts results (spiritual gifts described/practical uses)
    - 3. Overcome the opposition...
      - a. Play defense
      - b. Then play offense

#### ii. Make Sure You're On It!

- 1. be here, be involved, serve!
- 2. if you are not for Him (sold out for Christ)... you are against Him!
- 3. "Either get on the bus or off the bus, but don't stand in front of the bus, because this bus is moving!" (Tracey Nix, Hilltop Elem)

#### Computer Test by God

Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better at using the computer. They had been going at it for days, and God was tired of hearing all the bickering. Finally, God said, "Cool it. I am going to set up a test which will take two hours and it will judge who does the better job."

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| They moused.        | They did spreadsheets.                  |
| They wrote reports. | They sent faxes.                        |
| They sent e-mails.  | They sent out e-mails with attachments. |
| They downloaded.    | They did some genealogy reports.        |
| They made cards.    | They did every known job.               |

But, ten minutes before the time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, the rain poured, and of course, the electricity went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed.

The electricity finally flickered back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically screaming "It's gone! It's all gone! I lost everything when the power went out!" Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all his files from the past two hours. Satan observed this and became even more irate. "Wait! He cheated! How did he do it?!!" God shrugged and said, "**JESUS SAVES!**"

- d. Are you saved? (salvation = protection, love, eternal glory... over terrorism!)

**So... how are you fighting terrorism in your life? Beyond your life... how are you fighting terrorism in this church? Beyond this little town... how are you fighting spiritual warfare?**

Related music = "Before and After" (Verbs, 2003)

Color code = blue (commentary), red (copyrighted quotes/story)