

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: A Nation in Crisis

SERMON REFERENCE: Isaiah 59:1-5, 12-15

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Our beloved United States of America is in a crisis.
- b) One by one, the lights of decency and hope are being blown out in America.
- c) And one day, calamity will come.
 - i) We will call out to God, but there will be no answer.
 - (1) 1 Samuel 8:18
 - ii) You will pray, but your prayers won't be answered.
- d) Isaiah 59:1-4
 - i) Isaiah tells a sinful nation in his day that God is able to hear your prayers.
 - (1) It's not that God cannot hear your prayers but that He will not hear your prayers because your sin has created a barrier between you and a holy God.
 - ii) Isaiah also tells us what the sin of that day was and how it parallels the sin of our day.

2) THE SINS OF A NATION DURING ISAIAH'S DAY (ISAIAH 59:2-4)

- a) Bloody hands
 - i) Isaiah 59:3
 - ii) America is swimming in an ocean of blood.
 - (1) Since the Roe v. Wade ruling, America is now killing pre-born babies at a rate of 4,000 per day.
 - (2) Isaiah 59:2-3
 - iii) The violence of our day has surpassed the days of Noah, Lot and King Herod.
 - iv) Someone once said that we're living in a day where twelve-year-olds are having babies, fifteen-year-olds are killing each other, and eighteen-year-olds are graduating from high school with a diploma they can't read.
- b) Lying lips
 - i) Isaiah 59:3
 - ii) There is an alarming decline in basic honesty in every arena, including in the governmental, scientific and professional realms.
- c) Wicked hearts
 - i) Isaiah 59:4
 - ii) We live in a day of moral ambivalence.
 - iii) We're told today that adultery is really no big deal.
 - (1) If someone will not keep a sacred vow before Almighty God to their spouse, then they cannot be trusted to keep any promise anywhere anytime.
 - iv) We're told today that private morality can be disconnected from public service.
 - (1) Ecclesiastes 10:1
 - (2) Former President Theodore Roosevelt once wrote that honesty is an absolute prerequisite to efficient service to the public; and if a man is not honest, then he is simply disqualified for public service.

- (3) James 5:12
 - v) We're told today that somehow public approval validates wrong behavior.
 - (1) Isaiah 5:20
 - vi) We're also told today that if someone is approved by society, then that is all that matters.
- 3) WHAT CAUSES THESE CONDITIONS?
- a) A diet of deception
 - i) Isaiah 59:5
 - (1) When linked with verse 4, we find that the vipers' eggs are devilish lies and philosophies.
 - (a) They were hatched in Isaiah's day, and they are being hatched in our day.
 - (i) Our world and nation are on a snake egg diet.
 - ii) The incubators that hatch these eggs are materialism, humanism, New Ageism and liberalism.
 - (1) The old granddaddy serpent who has spawned and fertilized these eggs is Satan himself.
 - (a) He is a liar and the father of all lies.
 - iii) There are certain philosophical underpinnings in American life today that are poisoning our educational, religious, economic and political outlook.
 - (1) Our young people going to public schools are being served a snake-egg omelet each morning.
 - (a) Within the span of twenty years, dramatic changes took place in America.
 - (i) In 1962, the United States Supreme Court ruled that voluntary prayer in public schools is unconstitutional.
 - (ii) In 1963, the Supreme Court dismantled classroom Bible reading.
 - (iii) In 1980, the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools was declared unconstitutional.
 - (iv) In 1982, the court prohibited the teaching of Biblical creation.
 - (v) In the span of twenty years, God was expelled from our public schools.
 - 1. Now today, abortion, infanticide and euthanasia all become possible in a world that believes man is not created in the image of God but evolved from some primordial ooze.
 - 2. In America today, a teenage girl can receive abortion counseling and the abortion itself without her parents' knowledge.
 - 3. School-based clinics dispense birth control devices and counseling without parental notification or approval.
 - 4. Prayer is out, and policemen are in.
 - 5. Bibles are out, and values clarification is in.

6. The Ten Commandments are out; rape, armed robbery, gang warfare, murder and cheating are in.
 7. Creation instruction is out; evolution and blind chance are in.
 8. Corporal punishment is out, and disrespect and rebellion are in.
 9. Traditional values are out, and unwed motherhood is in.
 10. Abstinence is out, and condoms and abortion are in.
 11. Learning is out, and social engineering is in.
 12. History is out, and revisionism is in.
 13. Is it any wonder that the teenage suicide rate is soaring as well as promiscuity and violent crime?
- iv) According to Isaiah 59:5, when we come against these things and try to stamp them out, all we do is create more snakes.
- (1) To stamp out these snake eggs is not the answer.
- b) A web of wickedness
- i) Isaiah 59:5
 - ii) Spiders weave an almost invisible, sticky web for the purpose of catching an unsuspecting insect that will fly into that web and become entangled by the web.
 - iii) Satan has a web of evil that is terrifying, and our young people can hardly see these webs.
 - (1) The web of pornography
 - (a) Pornography is a multibillion-dollar industry.
 - (2) The web of drugs and alcohol
 - (a) Estimates show that students spend more money on alcohol than they do on non-alcoholic drinks and books combined.
 - (3) The web of immorality
 - (a) Young people today are being told that there are no fixed standards of right or wrong.
 - (b) Media and entertainment have created the myth that pre-marital sex, extra-marital sex, and homosexuality are on the same level as chastity, monogamy and heterosexuality.
 - (c) Sex education classes in public schools teach that morality is individual; that a person's conception of what is morally right or wrong is an individual decision.
 - (i) Exodus 20:14
 - (ii) 1 Corinthians 6:18
- c) The trashing of truth
- i) Isaiah 59:12-15
 - (1) When we stand up and speak up, we become the bad guy.
 - (2) We make ourselves prey when we speak against things and call for justice and truth.

- (3) There is a traffic jam today, with justice, equity and truth trying to get through the streets; but they cannot.
 - (a) Justice, judgment and equity cannot come through the streets because truth has fallen.
- ii) What caused truth to fall?
 - (1) Truth is not dead, but truth has stumbled.
 - (2) Truth has been knocked down in America by doctors of philosophy.
 - (3) Truth has been tripped up in America by dishonest politicians and liberal preachers.
- iii) The job in America today is to put truth back on her feet.
 - (1) Preachers and pastors have a responsibility as they stand in the pulpits of America every Sunday to open the Book of Truth and preach, "Thus saith the Lord God Almighty" without fear.
- iv) God calls the Bible the Word of Truth.
 - (1) Ephesians 1:13
- v) God calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth.
 - (1) John 14:17
- vi) God describes Himself as the Truth.
 - (1) John 14:6
- vii) Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.
 - (1) John 14:6
- viii) The church is called the pillar and the ground of truth.
 - (1) 1 Timothy 3:15
- ix) 3 John 1:4
- x) There is a difference between facts and truth.
 - (1) Knowledge may double; truth will never double.
 - (2) There is eternal truth.
 - (3) Truth is what food is to your body, what light is to your eyes and what melody is to your ears.
- d) Most of us want to stamp out snake eggs and to sweep down spiders' webs.
 - i) But when we stamp out a snake egg, we just get more snakes.
 - ii) When we sweep down a spider's web, it comes back.
- e) We need something that will slay the snake and destroy the spider, and that is truth.
 - i) Only truth can keep the daddy serpent from spawning those eggs.
 - ii) Only truth can keep the spider from weaving those sticky webs.
- f) We need to lift up truth in America today.
 - i) Every believer needs to rededicate themselves to the truth.
 - ii) Parents need to teach their children to live the truth, to love the truth, to tell the truth, to know the truth, and to believe the truth.
 - (1) John 17:17
- g) Proverbs 23:23
 - i) There is a prize to possess, and it is truth.
 - ii) There is a price to pay, and we must buy the truth.

- iii) We must preserve truth.
 - (1) Don't let anyone take the truth from you.
- h) The truth is in God's Word.
 - i) The early Christians did not argue over the Bible.
 - (1) They loved it, believed it, expounded it and shared it.
- 4) CONCLUSION
 - a) Our hearts should break over snake eggs, spider webs and traffic jams in America today.
 - b) We must take America back for truth.
 - c) Are you right with God?
 - i) Is your family right with God?
 - ii) Have you been feeding on snake eggs?
 - iii) Are you wrapped up in spiders' webs?
 - (1) There's only one thing that will set you free: truth.
 - (2) John 8:32
 - d) The truth is that God loves you and that Jesus Christ died for you.
 - i) Jesus carried your sins to the cross and paid your sin debt with His blood.
 - ii) The truth is that Jesus walked out of that grave and has ascended to Heaven.
 - iii) The truth is that one day soon, Jesus Christ is coming again.
 - iv) The truth is that if you will believe on Him and trust Him, He will save you.
 - (1) Not only will He save you, but He will satisfy you.
 - (a) You will never find what you're longing for until you find it in the Lord Jesus.
 - (2) He will sanctify you.
 - (a) He'll begin to make you more and more like Him.
 - (3) He will secure you.
 - (a) He will keep you.
 - (b) It's not a matter of you holding onto Him; He'll hold onto you.
 - e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16