

PERSPECTIVE

SEEING YOUR WORLD THROUGH GOD'S EYES



Pastor Jedidiah Thurner PERSPECTIVE Part 4: Asleep at the Wheel

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

Are you doing everything you can to stay awake? Will you do everything in your power to get you, and those closest to you, to your destination?

[Matthew 26:36-46, NLT]

"Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My

soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!” Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!””

The Four Postures that Precede Sleep

1. We Stop Moving

The Church has never been called to stop.

[Ephesians 6:13, NLT]

“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.”

2. We lay down.

The drug of choice for our generation is comfort.

[Philippians 3:12-14, MSG]

“I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.

Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.”

[1 Corinthians 15:57-58, NLT]

“But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”

3. We get comfortable.

The greatest things of life will cost you something. Our calling costs us our comfort.

[Luke 9:23, NLT]

“Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.”

We avoid the cross because we think the point of the cross is pain, shame, and discomfort; no, the point of the cross is resurrection!

Today's complacency becomes tomorrow's captivity.

4. We close our eyes.

When we close our eyes, we stop having vision; we lose sight of what's right in front of us. We lose sight of what God's doing among us.

[Matthew 16:19, NKJV]

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.””

The vehicle of the church is being driven by you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What conditions generally make you sleepy? How do you try to stay awake when you're feeling tired?
2. How would you describe "spiritual sleep"? In other words, what are some indicators?
3. When was a time that your best intentions were hindered by a posture that preceded sleep?
4. When have you stopped moving because of a season of adversity? How did you move on (or get un-stuck)? What did the season that followed look like?
5. Jedidiah stated that, in seasons, "even though not everyone can run, we can all reach out." Who do you need to reach out to help you "wake up"?
6. What do you stand for? Have you started accommodating or tolerating anything instead of speaking up? If so, what do you need to resolve?
7. How has your calling costed you your comfort?