**CALL ME CRAZY**

**Gotta Make a Choice of Faith**

Weekend of November 11-12, 2023

**WE Slide 1 I think that sermon bump shows pretty clearly that OUR WORLD HAS GONE CRAZY!** Men are useless unless they’re women, women aren’t sure who they are, marriage/family can be made up of any combination of people, but traditional marriage is evil. **Yet with all this freedom SOCIETY is crumbling.** More/more people are taking depression/anxiety meds at younger/younger ages, yet the suicide rate is higher than ever, especially among those who are living alternative lifestyles. **The longer they are on the meds the more unstable some become leading to more/more acts of violence and death.** The “freer” we become in fulfilling our every desire the more discontented we become**. Society is like an out of control car heading faster/faster for a cliff.** Somehow we need to get out of the car!

**THERE IS GOOD NEWS- there is a way out, but it means making a couple of clear, definite decisions and sticking to them no matter what happens!** The first is… **Slide 2**

1. **You have to decide how we got on this earth- evolution or creation.**

**What does this have to do with where we are as a country?**

1. This will decide who you answer to- self or God.
2. This will decide how you face the craziness- your way which is the world’s way or God’s way.
3. This will decide the impact of this world on your life- continued craziness/pain or peace/purpose.

**God’s/our desire is that you would choose the peace/purpose of being created by an infinitely powerful/loving/personal God.** If you do you still have a decision to make. **Slide 3**

1. **You have to decide if God really means what He says- about men, women, marriage, family, society and everything else in your life.** What He says about these things/others is completely opposite of this world.

**ALL THE CRAZINESS WE SEE IN LIFE comes back to these 2 questions. Slide 4** If EVOLUTION- you’re in control/do what you want- men/women/marriage/family/social issues/racial issues- and in the end CRAZY. **RIDE THE FENCE- a little God/a little you, you’ll end up an emotional/spiritual mess and in the end CRAZY.** CREATION-If you commit to God’s way, you’ll experience all the promises He’s given you in the Bible- forgiveness, restored relationship, freedom, purpose, peace, contentment, eternal life. **CALL ME CRAZY, but the Bible has guided peaceful societies for 1000s of years.** I know people have misused the Bible but tossing it because people misuse it would be like saying all union are slackers, all teachers/pastors molest, all healthcare abuse, all cops/racist. **Let’s not play that game and seriously consider these 2 choices more closely.** Over the next several weeks we’ll look at men/women, marriage, family/society.

**OK, so, Choice #1- Evolution or Creation?** Who are you going to answer to? **Self or God?** **For the vast majority of people, including many Christians, whether they believe in evolution or not, they live out evolution’s core motivation and answer to SELF. Slide 5** How does evolutionary thinking play out?

**GOD**

1. **EVOLUTION OR CREATION**
2. **Evolution- life from a chance chemical reaction.**
3. People call this science, but it’s a theory/faith based.
4. Science- to be a proven fact it has to be observable, measurable, and repeatable.
5. Not observed- no one saw supposed eternally existing PEACEFUL gases ignite/cause elements for life.
6. Not repeated- life from gases never reproduced/repeated in a science lab so it’s a theory/faith.
7. At its core, the motivation for success is “survival of the fit”; a species that can evolve/change/has most power to meet the changing environment will be the one that survives.
8. Those unable to adapt/the weak die/killed off- abortion, birth defects, killing the old.
9. It’s the same with social/political views- most powerful/popular views survive/kills off the weaker/less popular views.
10. It’s a “me first” mentality- only helps others when that help is beneficial to them- men, women, marriage, family are helpful if it gets them what they want, if not find someone/thing that does.
11. **If evolution is true we wouldn’t ask why there’s evil in the world, we’d ask why is there good in the world?** At its core there is no good it’s all survival; kill or be killed; overpower or be overpowered.
12. **BIG POINT:** If evolution is true then all the craziness is normal, acceptable, and encouraged.
13. A man to woman, woman to man, multiple genders/spouses/sex partners INCLUDING ANIMALS- promoted by Peter Singer, Princeton U ethicist, suppressing other races, Russia invading Ukraine, Hamas terrorizing Israel, Israel wiping out Hamas, Muslims killing Christians/persecuting LGBTQ+ community (even though LGBTQ+ supporting Hamas), China imprisoning/killing those of all religions.
14. It’s normal/will get worse as everyone vies for power until someone/some group is powerful enough to DICTATE ”peace” for the entire world; national scale- Nazis, Russia, China, some African/SA countries and what the United Nations is pushing for with their globalist agenda.

**Your hope for surviving peacefully is to figure out who’s the most powerful person/group and join them.** When you die you’ll find out if evolution was true or if God is real. **We can see from our society this is not working well at all so let’s see why we should choose to believe God created us.** **Slide 6** This position is also a theory, it’s faith-based.

1. **Creation- life from a self-existing, personal God**
2. A theory/faith-based- not observable, measurable, or repeatable
3. No one saw it except for God- there are good arguments for this but still faith.
4. Life produced from absolutely nothing has never been reproduced/repeated in a science lab.

**Here’s why this is important; God says in the Bible that He PERSONALLY created us in His IMAGE. READ Genesis 1:26-27 Slide 7-10** You/I created by an infinitely powerful/wise/creative God in His IMAGE for His PURPOSE.

1. God created mankind/humans in His image, Genesis 1:26
2. Humans created similar to but not identical to God; we are not God.
3. Immaterial spirit- God IS spirit, we are physical with a spirit.
4. Morality- sense of right/wrong and accountable to God for our actions. **This is what people don’t like- personal responsibility, people want to blame others for their situation/choices.** Evolution- no right/wrong just do whatever needs to be done to survive.
5. Intellect/emotiol- reason, learn, think abstractly, creativity, express emotion.
6. Relational- God is relational- Trinity; we are to have relationships 1st with Him, then others.
7. Physical abilities- God doesn’t have a body, but sees/hears/touches, we can with our physical bodies.
8. Purpose- represent Him in the care/control of creation- God has given us responsibility to care for His creation.

**Why did God choose to create you? He didn’t have to, had no need to.** Isaiah 43:7 summarizes He reason. **READ Isaiah 43:7 Slide 11-12 God summarizes our purpose as being created for His glory. What does that mean?**

1. Created for God’s glory, Isaiah 43:7
2. Glory- generally speaking it’s God revealing who He is to mankind- His glory shown/brightness- revealing that He is so holy/pure that His presence shines, creation- He’s infinitely power/wise/creative, etc.
3. He reveals Himself because He wants us to know Him and make Him known to others.
4. We make Him known to others when we obey Him- when men/women do what God says it shows others that God is a God of love, order, compassion, creativity, etc.
5. **Slide 13** If true then God sets the rules/promises to provide/protect when we believe/obey Him.

**THAT LEADS US TO THE 2nd CHOICE- if you believe God created will you believe He means what He says? Slide 14 If you believe God created then that means He’s the only One who really knows how life is successfully lived.** But God isn’t an abusive God forcing us to obey or making us inhuman robots who automatically obey. **He’s a God of relationship/wants us to choose to obey Him that’s why He gave Adam/Eve a choice/gives us that same choice.** Let’s see what He says about life when we believe what He says. **READ Genesis 2:15-25 Slide 15-26 There’s a lot here so let me try to boil it down so it’s easily remembered.** Simply put…God’s way guarantees God’s protection/provision.

1. **GOD’S WAY OR YOUR WAY, Genesis 2:15-25, 3:1-7**
2. **God’s Way Guarantees God’s Protection/Provision, Genesis 2:15-25**
3. Obedience brought God’s promise of providing for their spiritual/physical/emotional/relational needs.
4. God gave Adam the garden- area of responsibility/purpose- cultivate/keep/manage as God commanded.
5. He gave Adam his helper/teammate one who was the same but different- he was to become one with her so they could accomplish God’s purpose for them.
6. The only thing they needed to do for all their needs to be met was to obey God.

**What would happen if they disobeyed/did life their way?**

1. Disobedience guarantees death. **Slide 27**
2. Immediate spiritual death- severed relationship with God.
3. They would be saying, “We’ll be responsible for ourselves.”
4. Brought God’s eternal judgment on them- broke His law.
5. Eventual physical death- sin destroys body/all creation.
6. Gift in disguise- gives time for people to turn to God for help.

**Let’s see what they chose to do. READ Genesis 3:1-7 Slide 28-36 Do you see what happened there?** Satan got Eve to question God’s Word/His goodness, they reasoned for themselves, at the fruit and experienced death- just like God said. **Back then it was just Satan, today we have him/others/our own sinful free will to tempt us to question God’s Word/Goodness.**

1. **Our Way Guarantees Death, Genesis 3:1-7**
2. As with Eve, today Satan/others/our free will tempt us to question God’s Word/goodness.
3. God’s Word- **Does God really mean what He says about men, women, marriage, family, living life His way?**
4. God’s goodness- **Is God withholding something from me?**

**Once she/we begin questioning God’s Word/goodness then we only have ourselves to evaluate things which is what Eve did. Slide 37**

1. Eve evaluated things based on what she thought- it’s food, looks good, will give me wisdom.
2. She goes with what she thinks is best, eats it and gives it to Adam who also eats it!
3. For them it brought immediate spiritual death- kicked out of the garden/God’s presence, brought sin into the world/their descendants, and eventual physical death.
4. For us it destroys our lives/relationships.

**God who is loving/gracious kills an animal to make clothes for them.** Symbolizes the shedding of blood that covers their sin so they could be restored relationally to God. **This foreshadows Jesus, God the Son, who shed His blood on the cross to give us permanent cover for our sin if we choose to believe/trust God and be restored relationally to Him.** But for the rest of their lives, throughout history, and all the way to today mankind has struggled to do life God’s way, choosing their way instead; it’s why our world is in the CRAZY MESS that it is in. **Here’s the GOOD NEWS- God still promises to meet all your spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational needs if you’re willing to do life His way.** Jesus restated God’s promise from Genesis in Matthew 6:33. **READ Matthew 6:33 Slide 38 As we close with our TAKEAWAYS let’s go back to the 2 questions I mentioned at the beginning. Slide 39**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Who will you answer to… yourself or God?**
2. If yourself…then get ready for more craziness/destruction.
3. If God…then know what He says about how to live life.
4. It starts with having Him restore your relationship. **Share gospel**
5. It continues with you knowing His Word- the Bible. **We teach it/teach you how to know it.**

**Then 2nd once you learn what He has to say about life… will you trust that He means what He says? Slide 40**

1. **Will you trust that God means what He says?**
2. What God says about men, women, marriage, family, society is completely opposite of what the world says or what you might think makes sense.
3. If you trust Him and you live it out His promise your spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational needs will be met.

**If you have questions about a relationship with God, how to know His Word/Bible better, or what He has to say about an area of struggle in your life I’ll be around to talk.** Come back next week as we see what God has to say about MEN/WOMEN.

**PODCAST: Do you want to end the craziness? Then you gotta decide whose way is best. Genesis 1:26-27, 2:15-3:7; Matthew 6:33**