

When Your Future is 'God-less' (3/2/25)

Verses: Isaiah 22:12-14

Main Verse: Isaiah 22:12-13

'Takeaway': When God is removed from our thinking about the future, we are tempted to foolishly live as if today is all that matters.

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Getting Started: What/who do you think about when you think about the future? Why?

READ: Isaiah 22:12-14 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What did God call for "in that day"?
- How did the people respond?
- Why did they respond that way?
- What should we learn from their response?

Elementary:

- What did God call for "in that day"? Why?
- How did the people respond?
- Why did they respond that way?
- What should we learn from their response?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- God called (& calls) for his people to repent of their sin & obey him wholeheartedly.
- The people were not repentant; they did the exact opposite of what God called them to do.
- They responded in this way because they lost sight of the reality of God & eternity, foolishly believing that today was all there was (i.e., that tomorrow they would die).
- This should caution us to obey God & follow confidently in his ways - being ever-mindful of him.
- Thankfully, God, thru Jesus, has a plan to rescue us from our me-centered lives thru faith in Jesus & surrendering to his loving leadership.

Elementary:

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- This should caution us to obey God & follow confidently in his ways - being ever-mindful of him - not getting caught in mindless escapism with a "live-for-today" attitude.
- Thankfully, God, thru Jesus, has a plan to rescue us from our me-centered lives as we surrender ourselves to his loving leadership over us, thru faith in Jesus.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(toddler) Talk to God. Thank him that we can always confidently trust him. When we feel like living just for today & the world's happiness, ask God to help you be ever-mindful of him & forever with him. Also ask him to help you live in a manner that brings honor & glory to him.

(elementary) Talk to God. Thank him that we can always confidently trust him. When we feel like living just for today & the world's happiness, ask God to help you be ever-mindful of him & forever with him. Also ask him to help you live in a manner that brings honor & glory to him. Thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, to rescue you from a me-centered life as you surrender to his loving leadership in your life. Do you hear God calling you to do so today? If so, you might pray something like this: **Admit** you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, & forever with God. With your whole heart & being, **commit** yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. If you pray this, or have questions about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.

