"The Danger of Spiritual Distraction"
Isaiah 5:8-17

C.I.T.—Judgement comes against the spiritually distracted.
C.I.S.—Stay focused on Jesus to avoid the judgement against spiritually distracted.
Purpose—I want to encourage our people to keep Jesus first in their lives instead of allowing pride to prioritize other things such as economics or entertainment.
Introduction—Peter distracted while walking on water

I. ***The Condition of Spiritual Distraction***. Vs. 8-12
   a. Distracted by Economics
      i. Accumulation of wealth
         1. Connected houses—building large mansions
         2. Connecting fields—developing large estates
      ii. Of Wealth
         1. The house will set empty, like antebellum plantations after the end of slavery.
         2. Fields would not produce properly.
         3. What they thought was going to bring them comfort, security, and provision was false advertising.
   b. Distracted by Entertainment
      i. Drinking alcohol, playing music—partying
      ii. Morning to night—all day and that is all they do
      iii. Wealthy to do this, and negligent to work and other responsibilities
      iv. This refers to partying in particular, but extends to any type of entertainment
   c. Distracted by Amusement
      i. A-muse—without mind
      ii. They do not regard the LORD's work.
      iii. They do not see His deeds.
      iv. Positively—they don't know or recognize His blessing in their lives and His desire for their lives.
      v. Negatively—they don't recognize His warnings and coming judgment
   d. Spiritual Distraction is Revealed in Priorities.
   e. Illus.—Kids on their phones with their friends
   f. Application
      i. When we allow other priorities to get in the way (and this could be anything), we fail to discern what God is up to in our lives.
      ii. We fail to know how we are supposed to live.
      iii. We fail to know when He is disciplining us.
      iv. We are distracted from Him.

II. ***The Consequences of Spiritual Distraction*** vs. 13-14
   a. Spiritual distraction is a willful ignorance.
   b. Neglecting God's Word will lead to:
      i. Defeat—opposing army
      ii. Exile—removed from homeland
      iii. Hunger and thirst—without provision
      iv. Death—Sheol

c. Spiritual Distraction Results in Pain.

d. Illus.—How often are car wrecks caused by distracted drivers?

e. Application

i. We are not simply driving our car down the road, but our very life.

ii. If you are taught not to get distracted while driving, then why would be distracted while living?

iii. When we are spiritually distracted from God, we are in danger of all types of destruction.

III. ***The Cause of Spiritual Distraction*** vs. 15-17

a. Pride and arrogance is the cause of spiritual distraction.

i. We elevate ourselves and we prioritize what we want to prioritize instead of what God wants us to prioritize.

ii. We choose what we are going to do, instead of entrusting that leadership to the Lord.

b. Only one can be exalted—Jesus.

c. He will not share exaltation and glory.

d. He opposes the proud.

i. He brings low and humbled the prideful.

ii. He removes all of what they have done.

iii. The fields are grazed by lambs.

iv. The houses hold feast for foreigners.

e. Spiritual Distraction is Rooted in Pride.

f. Illus.—Dad preaching in Beirut Lebanon—"My people don't come to church when rain is falling, but you are at church when bombs are falling."

g. Application

i. When we find an excuse to miss church, we are spiritually distracted.

ii. For some people, they will not miss church for anything—bring a bulletin back from a Baptist church they attend on vacation to prove that to the pastor that they didn't skip.

iii. For others, they will miss for anything.

iv. If they show up, it is because there was literally nothing else going on.

v. This is because you are out of step with the LORD; you have placed yourself first in your pride.

vi. He will not allow that forever.

Conclusion

- We can become distracted by difficulties and trials, passions and desires, sin and iniquity.
- Regardless of our distraction, if it takes our eyes off of Jesus, then we are in danger.
- Billie Dupler—"Keep your eyes on Jesus."