

“When the Waters Rise...Call 911”

Pastor Dale Campfield - February 20th, 2011

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Intro:

We’ve just finished a sermon series entitled: “I AM”.
In one week we’ll begin a new series entitled: “IMAGINE GREATER”

So, we’ve got two weeks in between that I’ll be sharing with you a couple of messages that God has laid upon my heart.

Last week was: “A Gloomy or Godly Future?”

This week: “When the Waters Rise...Call 911”

As you know, we are living in a time when the finances of the world are completely unstable. The debt that America has right now is astronomical.

As of this last week...

US National Debt:	\$14,107,378,361,019.00 +
US Population:	312,003,682 +
Debt Per Taxpayer:	\$127,354.00 +

There are many people predicting right now that there is going to be a financial collapse of the dollar in the U.S. unlike we’ve never seen before. People are losing jobs, there is great unrest in the financial markets, etc.

On top of that, you look at the unrest in the Middle East and around the world; so much pain, hurt, fear, unbelief and turmoil around the world. The waters are rising...

TEXT: Matthew 14:22-14:33

The waters arose and the storm blew.... But God was there.

When the Waters Start to Rise... Call God's 911. He's got a 911 program that will far outweigh the 911 system in America.

What is the 911 system in America? I'm sure we're all aware of this national emergency phone calling system; that when you have a dire emergency, you can call 911 and get an emergency operator that can help you with your need.

The three-digit telephone number "9-1-1" has been designated as the "Universal Emergency Number," for citizens throughout the United States to request emergency assistance. It is intended as a nationwide telephone number and gives the public fast and easy access to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

In the United States, the first catalyst for a nationwide emergency telephone number was in 1957, when the National Association of Fire Chiefs recommended use of a single number for reporting fires.

In 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a "single number should be established" nationwide for reporting emergency situations. The use of different telephone numbers for each type of emergency was determined to be contrary to the purpose of a single, universal number. Other Federal Government Agencies and various governmental officials also supported and encouraged the recommendation. As a result of the immense interest in this issue, the President's Commission on Civil Disorders turned to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a solution.

In November 1967, the FCC met with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) to find a means of establishing a universal emergency number that could be implemented quickly. In 1968, AT&T announced that it would establish the digits 9-1-1 (nine-one-one) as the emergency code throughout the United States.

The code 9-1-1 was chosen because it best fit the needs of all parties involved. First, and most important, it meets public requirements because it is brief, easily remembered, and can be dialed quickly. Second, because it is a unique number, never having been authorized as an office code, area code, or service code, it best meets the long range numbering plans and switching configurations of the telephone industry.

Congress backed AT&T's proposal and passed legislation allowing use of only the numbers 9-1-1 when creating a single emergency calling service, thereby making 9-1-1 a standard emergency number nationwide.

It's a great system, but has some flaws to it. God's 911 program, is a better system with no flaws in it!

How does it work? How do we call 911?

5 Ways to Dial into God's 911 Program When the Waters Rise

I. HAVE FAITH - NOT FEAR

Just Dial 911—

Genesis 9:11

"Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Ask yourself; do you believe Him? Do you believe the promises of God? Of course you do. But when you're in the midst of the storm, you have to believe those promises and have FAITH that God will do what He said He will do.

Do you believe God's promise? Tsunamis and hurricanes are localized. The rainbow is God giving us His word on this...do we believe Him and trust Him?

Then the first 9 vv. of chapter 11 is the Tower of Babel...sinful man continuing to do his thing. But God's promise has held true and will to the very end...God's final judgment will be different...not water, but fire next time! And praise God, we Christians won't be here for that!

Job 9:11

"If He goes by me, I do not see Him; If He moves past, I do not perceive Him; (yet I pray)."

Job didn't see God in some low times, but he knew He was there, and he prayed until he got his answer! So, Have Faith and not Fear.

II. PRAY - DON'T PANIC

When panic takes over prayer ceases. We must continue to pray for those who are homeless or missing loved ones. We must continue to pray for healing to those who are sick; emotionally, physically and spiritually. We must continue to pray when we hear the news reports daily. We must continue to pray when we are tempted to panic. We should pray today for all ravaged by terrorism in the past, and for the ongoing worldwide war against it!

Just Dial 911—

Nehemiah 9:11

"You divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land. And their persecutors You threw into the deep as a stone into the mighty waters."

The natural man panics...but the supernatural man prays!

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

It's hard to see in the shadows, and it can be scary there, until we realized Whose shadow that is!

1 Cor. 9:11

"If we have planted the spiritual seed that has been of benefit to you, is it too much if we receive part of the harvest from your earthly goods?"

Things are just things, and they pass away, but the devil cannot touch our spiritual things...our salvation is secure as we are in God's hand. Job said "naked came I out of my mother's women and naked shall I return." "the Lord gave and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord!" In eternity material values don't matter. "only 1 life, twill soon be passed...only what's done for Christ will last!"

2 Cor. 9:11

"Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God."

Truly, if we have Christ we have it all...we're rich, we're blessed, and we should be thankful in all circumstances for this!

III. BELIEVE GOD - DON'T BLAME HIM

This is not God's fault, though we call it an "act of God." Some will blame Him. Some will turn against Him. Some will suggest that God is punishing certain individuals.

It's part of our nature to make ourselves feel better by assigning blame. Some will seek to blame the President, the government, FEMA, CIA, etc. There is a place for this but it shouldn't be a political tool...this is about saving lives!

Just Dial 911—

Ecclesiastes 9:11

"I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time."

It's a sin-cursed world, and we are the sinners who cursed it, and bad things happen. We shouldn't blame God, but believe on Him. God is not responsible for our circumstances...He wants to save us from them, and He will, if only we believe, like the blind man...

John 9:11

He told them, "The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.' So I went and washed, and now I can see!"

We don't know all the reasons why. We do know that God is in charge, and He controls all. Thus, we must believe and not blame.

IV. RESPOND - DON'T RUN

We must take this as a lesson and a call from God to do that which must be done.

Just Dial 911—

Matthew 9:11

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

Jesus went where the opportunities were, to those who recognized their need of Him. And this is the time for believers to reach out as well!

Luke 9:11

“But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.”

Psalm 9:11

“Sing praises to the LORD who reigns in Jerusalem. Tell the world about his unforgettable deeds.”

V. BE ASSURED - NOT ANGRY

Be assured that God always does the right thing. Be assured that God never makes mistakes. Our Anger must be directed toward sin. Righteous anger must be directed toward the Prince of sin. We must unite against the act of terrorism, not the terrorist; against the disease, not the person; against the sin, not the sinner.

God loves the sinner. But he hates their sin. God gave His Son for the sinner.

Anger will only enhance confusion and misunderstanding. So we need to focus upward in assurance, not outward in anger.

Peter got into trouble when he looked at the storm, but when he looked at his Lord he rose above the storm. We have a problem in that we always want to “feel” good. We need to rest in the “fact” that all is well even when we don’t feel it. Bad things happen, but God is good!

Just Dial 911—

Exodus 9:11

“At the end of the forty days and nights, the LORD handed me the two stone tablets inscribed with the words of the covenant.”

We have a covenant with God – a promise. We can rest in that covenant, that God will do what He says He will do in His word.

Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, and was handicapped...he was lame. He had special needs, and our hearts go out to ones like that. But the king took him in as his own and he lived and was blessed there.

2 Samuel 9:11

“As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king’s sons.”

I don’t mind living “hand to mouth” as long as it’s God’s hand and my mouth! He who puts food on the table will put gas in the tank. If He can be trusted with our souls He can be trusted with our feet and everything that stands above them!

Proverbs 9:11

“For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.”

We can be assured the goodness of God in all things if we have the assurance of salvation...
Hebrews 9:11

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

God’s anger is sometimes poured out on wickedness, but He knows His own, and when He sees that blood he passes over us.

Exodus 9:11

And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

And the wicked have their reward...

Rev. 9:11

And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

Conclusion:

What will we do in time of crisis and the waters rising?

We must have faith, not fear.

We must pray, not panic.

We should believe and not blame.

Don’t run from problems...respond to those in need.

And depart in peace with assurance...

Philip. 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

And as you do.... You wait, you watch, you'll see!

Coming up...

IMAGINE MORE SERMON SERIES