

BIG IDEA: Stay focused; the Lord will return.**1) INTRO**

• Baseball season – May 30, 2007 – Yankees at Blue Jays, 2 outs top of 9th, runners on 2nd and 1st, Jorge Posada pops up in the infield near 3rd base. The runner from 2nd easily scores, A-Rod was on first and in running to 3rd base yells “Ha – I got it”. The two Jays players (Howie Clark & John McDonald) who were looking to catch the ball back off and the ball drops to the ground...padding the lead for the Yankees who went on to win that game against the Jays

- Distraction and loss of focus is costly
 - It’s true in baseball...and it’s true in life
 - Which is why Peter/God reminds us of this today
- God reminds us to stay focused
 - And he reminds us to stay focused on the end in view
 - Specifically that the day of the Lord will come
 - He will return
- BIG IDEA

2) STAY FOCUSED ON GOD’S WORD (vv1-2)

- We see in our text right away that God wants us to be focused
 - These letters are reminders
 - Theme: Stand Firm in the True Grace of God
 - Saved by JC/God’s grace
 - Called to stand firm in JC – faithfully live for JC
 - So, God reminds us
- We see in vv1-2 to stay focused on God’s Word/Bible
 - Lots of chirping & barking around us
 - In our media, entertainment, unbelievers at work or school
 - To try to distract us – like ARod to Clarke & McDonald
- Stay focused on what the Bible says
 - Were to be in the Word...filling our minds with God’s words... his truth of who JC is, who we are, how he wants us to live, what he has in store

- How are we in this? Are we in the Word? Is it priority?
- “The Common Rule” book – having a rule of life (rhythms of life that help us to be focused on God, do well in our work, to rest/rejuvenate) – Bible/phone...NB

- I need better rhythm

- We stay in the Bible so that we hear the only voice that matters – God’s
- We flood our mind with God’s words so that when we pray and listen to God, we hear from him...we’re able to differentiate our thoughts from God’s
 - If we’re feeling led by the HS/spoken to by the HS and it lines up w/ Scripture, then we’re hearing from God
 - Stay focused
- Why we memorize the Bible
 - Filter everything we encounter on a daily basis
 - Detectives w/ the kids
- Why we sit under the preached Word
 - For weekly reminders to stay focused
 - And to do this in community – to encourage each other & keep each other accountable
 - So that we’re living for JC as the Bible shows us
- The specific reminder we’re given today is that JC will return
 - BIG IDEA
 - The Bible shows us that the Lord will return – the prophets speak of his return
 - The Bible speaks of JC’s teaching to live holy lives...as his followers
 - Stay focused; live holy lives
 - Stay focused on what the Bible says – this is what Peter’s reminding his readers of...and what God’s reminding us of
- This reminder is given to us – true believers – who’re different from the false teachers we saw last week...and we see this week as well
 - “stirring up [our] sincere mind”
 - Sincere carries forth the truth that we’re not contaminated by the influences of the world/flesh/devil
 - But the false teachers here/the scoffers are entrenched in the world

3) DON'T FOLLOW FALSE TEACHERS (vv3-7)

- We don't follow them...they're "following their own sinful desires" and saying that the Lord's not coming
 - It makes sense that they'd say these things
 - They're folks who want to pursue their sinful desires without consequence
 - Convince themselves that they won't face punishment
 - The OT prophets spoke of the coming day of the Lord
 - That God's judgment will fall on those who're following their sinful desires
 - But, his judgment won't fall on those who're following JC
 - The HS-inspired men who wrote the Bible put these truth to pen and paper
 - And, unbelievers don't want to acknowledge this
 - So, it's easier to mock God
 - Easier to live in sin
 - Easier to say God's not gonna intervene
 - Easier to lie that God's never intervened before and so he never will in the future
 - This is the way of the world
 - This is what happens "in the last days"
 - This time period from the arrival of JC to his return...now
 - This entire time period is/will be marked by people trying to damage/destroy the truth of the Word of God...especially the hope of the JC's return
 - There's an assault on God's promises here
 - "God's distant, he doesn't do anything/won't step in"
 - But, God did intervene
 - v5 – intervened in his creation of the world...by his very word
 - He intricately and beautifully created every little detail of the world/the universe that he's sovereign and providential over...spoke it into existence
 - v6 – God also intervened in the flood

- When he poured out his judgement on the wicked
- v7 – God will intervene again
 - When he returns & when he'll judge the ungodly/the wicked/those pursuing their own sinful desires
 - When he returns, he'll come to judge and destroy/bring to ruin the ungodly
 - They'll face God's eternal wrath and punishment...for unrepentant, ungodly living
- God *has* intervened throughout history, he *does* intervene every day in countless ways, and he *will* intervene when he returns
 - Even in the midst of being mocked, BIG IDEA
 - God who never lies, says in Bible that he will return
 - In his time

4) GOD'S NOT WORKING ON OUR CLOCK (vv8-10)

- This can be a hard one, can't it?
 - We think we know better, don't we?
 - We want things to happen when we want
 - Which doesn't always line up w/ God's timing...rarely..
- Peter quotes Ps 90:4 to show that eternal God's not bound by time like we are
 - He can step in time or out of time whenever he wants
 - What seems like a long time of inactivity to us, isn't to God who's not bound by time
 - Rather it's evidence of God's kind patience to us
 - He's not slow to fulfill his promise of coming back
 - He's patient allowing for the salvation of more
 - Rising world population – praise the Lord
 - More people to come to JC
 - He's not wanting his people/those who're his to perish, but to repent
- God will return...when he wants...like a thief...when no one expects
 - We often want God to work on our time
 - Kids getting ready to get out the door
 - But, God's time is best
 - Ahmad's story of the Shelves of Omeed

- God's not slow; he's patient
- BIG IDEA

5) JC WILL RETURN...SO LIVE HOLY LIVES (vv11-13)

- So...live holy lives/godly lives
 - Living In submission and surrender to JC
 - As our Lord and Savior
 - Battling sin
- The way we live matters
 - Everything will perish/be gone – homes, cars, retirement account, computers, guitars/pianos, books, positions, authority
 - None of this stuff matters...it'll be gone one day
 - Except for our conduct/the way we live
 - That's what matters
 - Those who mock God and his promises live following sin...and they'll endure God's wrath b/c of it
 - But, those who submit and surrender to JC as Lord and Savior live holy lives/godly/obedient/God-glorifying/Christ-exalting lives
 - When that's us, we're promised eternity w/ God in the new heavens and the new earth
 - All things will be destroyed and God will make all things new...and everything will be perfect and glorious
 - Those of us made righteousness in JC – given right standing w/ God b/c of JC – will dwell in that world for all eternity
 - But, it's not where the false teachers will be...not where the wicked/ungodly will be
 - Makes one reflect on the way we live, doesn't it?
 - Whether we're trusting in JC & living holy and godly lives
 - Our hope depends on JC – his taking our sin on himself
 - When we're staking our lives on the work of JC, we're given the HS who helps us to live the way God wants us to live – finding our joy in him, faithfully following him, and shining for him

6) CLOSING

- Article – the greatest threat to our souls is anything that keeps us from God...and then we lose focus
 - May we not lose focus