

Two Things

By: David Burruss

I was sitting in the office today, taking a break from work, and scrolling through videos when a comedian by the name of Mike Goodwin caught my attention.

In his video, he said that his grandma told him there were only two things in life to worry about. Whether you are healthy or whether you are sick. If you are healthy, you ain't got nothing to worry about, but if you are sick, you got two things to worry about. Whether you are going to get better or whether you are going to get worse. If you get better, you ain't got nothing to worry about, but if you get worse, you got two things to worry about. Whether you are going to live or whether you are going to die. If you live, you ain't got nothing to worry about, but if you die, you got two things to worry about. Whether you are going to heaven or whether you are going to hell. If you go to heaven, you ain't got nothing to worry about, but if you go to hell, you got two things to worry about..... Original or extra crispy.

Of course, the joke takes an unexpected turn at the end, but it also reminds us of a serious truth. Life is not free from hardship. Jesus never promised His followers a life without storms. In fact, He said, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). He spoke those words to His disciples the night before His crucifixion, knowing full well what they were about to face. He did not soften the truth to make it easier to hear. Tribulation was coming. But so was victory, and that victory belonged to Him first, and through Him, to all who follow Him.

Every person will face trials, disappointments, sickness, loss, and eventually death, if the Lord does not first return. No amount of comfort or planning removes us from that reality. The grandmother's joke works because it touches something true. Sickness leads to a fork in the road. Death leads to another. There is no escaping the branching path, only a choice of which way to walk it.

When those storms come, there are really only two ways to live. We can choose the path of the world, trusting in ourselves and the temporary things around us, or we can choose to follow Christ. The world's way often promises an easier life. It tells us to trust our own strength, to lean on comfort, to measure success by what can be seen and held. But that way always leaves people unprepared for eternity, because it never asks the question that matters most. Christ's way is different. It calls us to deny ourselves and follow Him, and though that costs something now, it leads to life everlasting.

Sometimes people speak as though living for Christ is too difficult, as though obedience is a weight too heavy to bear. Certainly, there is sacrifice involved. Following Jesus has never been described in Scripture as effortless. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Notice the order in that verse. Love comes first, and obedience flows out of it. Keeping His commandments is not the price we pay to earn His love. It is the natural response of a heart that already loves Him.

John understood this well. Writing later in his life, after years of walking with the Lord and watching the church grow, he said, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). That word burdensome deserves a moment's pause. John does not deny that following Christ requires something of us. He simply insists that what it requires is not a crushing weight. A command given by someone we love, for our own good, does not feel the same as a command given by someone who does not care whether we sink or swim.

The question, then, is not whether storms will come. They will. Sickness will visit most of us in some form. Death will visit every one of us, unless the Lord returns first. The real question is whether we will face those storms with Christ or without Him. When our lives are built on the solid rock of His teaching, we have nothing to fear, because even when this life comes to an end, the hope of heaven remains secure (Matthew 7:24-27).

A comedian's joke can make us laugh and, if we let it, make us think. But it cannot answer the question it raises. It can only point toward the fork in the road. That is the kind of confidence no joke can give, but the gospel certainly can.