

A biblically based approach to the media

## a. How did Jesus respond to news/hot topics?

- Divorce
  - "Haven't you read..." Matt 19:4
- Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar
  - "Why are you trying to trap me?"
  - "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."
- Galileans murdered by Pilate & Falling Tower
  - "...But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

b. Do we have the power to determine what is good and what is bad?

*...trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

Heb 5:14

*For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven.*

Matt 16:17

*When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn...*

Ps 142:3 (NLT)

c. How can I expect to see through the fog?

Men of Issachar

*understood the times and knew what Israel should do*

1 Chron 12:32

*They are darkened in their understanding and alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts.*

*Ephesian 4:18*

Soft heart = clarity in understanding

## d. How do I hit pause before I react?

Hezekiah besieged and threatened by Assyrians (2 Kings 19)

- Heard news
- Laid it out before God
- Remembered God's nature & track record
- Accepted some facts
- Asked God to intervene

In His presence, our perspective isn't open to distortion

*When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply  
till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.*

Ps 73:16-17

e. Should I be moved with compassion for everything?

In His mercy, He doesn't allow us to see all that He sees all the time but we need to be eager to see when he allows us to do so

Stifling hardens heart

*If anyone with earthly possessions sees his brother in need, but withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God abide in him?*

1 John 3:17

f. What is the point of compassion if I don't have a 'action' out of it?

Only DO what Father says

Sometimes only role is to pray

Compassion brings message of gospel to life

## g. Opportunity for the Good News?

### Paul praying for doorway

*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

Col 4:3

### Words of Hope

*...always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

1 Pet 3:15

### Words of Life

*You have the words of eternal life.*

John 6:68



# h. What does my reaction tell me about me?

Israelites bias towards fear, unbelief & rebellion so report of spies found traction

*The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 2:14

Is my tendency to fear magnetised to messages of fear? Or rebellion to individualism? Or racism to messages of 'them' vs 'us'?

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

Ps139:23

i. How do we make sure we aren't part of the machine, which spins lies and despair?

Disciples more impressed by the size of the storm than He who sleeps in their midst (Matthew 8)

*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

Col 4: 6

*“draw near to listen”, “Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought”,  
“therefore let your words be few”*

Ecc 5:1-2

*Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen*

Eph 4:29

j. How does this news align with kingdom truth?

*...since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken...*

Hebrews 12:28

*But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.*

Dan 2:35

What is His nature & track record

Despair vs Hope

Fear vs Peace

Powerlessness vs Empowering

Anger vs Love

# j. How does this news align with kingdom truth?...*Continues*

What has He said?

“Let us go over to the other side.” Vs “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

*You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.... but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Matt 24:6-8, 13-14

## k. You're here on a mission

*"I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?"*

Neh 6:3

*No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.*

2 Tim 2:4