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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus, life, tonight, find, death, question, began, held, freedom, man, words, God, hearts, people, live, longer, human being, bizarre, escape, point

SPEAKERS

Landon Saunders

Landon Saunders 00:01

fortunate to have one of his best friends introducing that kind of ensures that the Vegas golden get kicked off, at least on a note, it's warm. And I appreciate being here tonight. And along with having the opportunity of sharing with you some things that we feel very strongly about to be able to enjoy just your company, and spend a week with Jack and Francis, they're fine once again. It's it's a special privilege to have people with us tonight who are regular listeners, our little five minute comment each day on Heartbeat. And this is a relatively new outreach. And we've been very gratified with the way that's been received in a lot of areas of the country. And I think one of the richest times in my day, is the time when we sit down with letters from people who are regular listeners, as they share their feelings and their needs. It's one of the more exciting things about Heartbeat. It's not just one way communication, that we really encourage people to write. Not that we can kind of maybe string them along for a little while and then sync that up can later that and an honest desire to share views, and to explore truth. Because it seems that that's one of our really urgent needs. I'm going to read denied a paragraph. This is an unusual paragraph and not an easy one from the 12 chapter manual, not likely to listen carefully, and the description that's given people, then this is the description that very act like our world today. Matthew 12, beginning with 43. When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places, seeking rest, but he finds none. Then he says, I will return to my house from which I came. And when it comes, he finds it empty, sweat and put in order. Then he goes and brings wisdom, seven other spirits, more evil than himself. And they enter into welfare. And the life state of that man becomes worse than the first social and the also with this evil generation that is possible. Father, we're were made to be quiet. Before this bit of information quiet because it it's the speaks so profoundly to where we often find ourselves and particularly, our world. Our desire, our aim is to find where we want to find peace and hope. We want it to be real. We're aware of the deception, the illusion, it's all about us. And so, we asked for wisdom for understanding that we might be spared ensnared in all of these options and alternatives but that really is the thing. And we may find the real, the true basis for life for hope

04:34

and for peace.

Landon Saunders 04:37

With nonprofit each person is here to help us to appreciate each other, help us to care for each other and to be concerned in a way that that is really and truly par with, with what we like to be as human beings here. Thank you for this hour we pray in the name of Jesus. Now, what we're going to do in this next little while, is explore a context in which the message of Jesus Christ is to be spoken. Sometimes, we began with the message itself without really gathering together, the context or the situation into which that message is to be spoken and can best be understood. And so we're giving an overview of the society itself, and the needs that are surfaced in society. And then at the end of our remarks, we're going to suggest what the Bible teaches as a way to deal with the complexity of our situation today. And then beginning tomorrow evening and building, then through the week, we're going to be presenting the message of Christ before this stage. And then for, for some time, we've been aware that, that there's something wrong, that something isn't coming out right, that something isn't falling together, in the way that it really comes together. And I think that strikes is very strange. Because we've never had as a people, as much money as we have. We've never had as much technical no doubt, as we've had. We've never had as good as schools, as is available and are available to people all over the land. And we've never known about ourselves and about the world, as we know now. And yet in the midst of all of that, as hopeful and as promising as it all seems. There's a mystery in life. There is an infection, there's a potion not only in the air, in our hearts. There's the uneasiness that this theme, the loneliness, the futility, that sometimes sells a bonus in the form of cynicism, empathy, is good. And it's hard sometimes to find anything to be excited about, or anything that that really makes our mouth fly open with surprise. And wonder. We've become a nation of plotters, we plot we're like, and our burdens seem to have gotten heavier and heavier. And it's hard for us to realize, well, a lot of lie. On the one hand, we have so much that we do. So we've taken a lot out of life, we've taken for example, things that at lunchtime, as a nation, we held as precious, as valuable a system of morals that people have pretty well agreed upon.

08:32

There was a religious

Landon Saunders 08:37

common note that we share. And we could speak on religious matters in a way that it could still draw an audience. And people were concerned that their children were taught some of these things about lying about reality that we felt were extremely important. But that's not happening so much anymore. We've experienced a decline in church attendance. And people are, it seems less, less aware. And it's really not that that the multitude of people would suddenly qualify as atheists or infidels. It's not that that we've just risen up and with all of our hearts we've said there is no God. It's not

09:32

the thing that has caught us is we've been exposed

Landon Saunders 09:38

and and caught by a spirit agenda world but that doesn't come come out and just in outright turn denying our religious heritage. But it says it just can't deliver. What you're really looking for.

10:01

It's called people to down.

Landon Saunders 10:04

And there are many who feel that, that to be a Christian is somehow to be intellectually naive. At the base Christian is somehow a combat, that somehow it's an escape from, from the real responsibilities of life. And from an intense and honest approach to contemporary life. I think that's probably where most people are today. religion, Christianity, it was fine for us day. But it just really doesn't have the muscle to stand the strain and the pressure of our lives. And so that has been kind of taken out, and it's been removed. And so here we sit now around the fire that's been reduced to no more than coal, and even they are no longer read. And we should read the dark. And the wonderfox. While we're in some ways we're, we're live on Guinness describes the safari in Africa, which at night, the people build a fire a big fire, to keep the wild animals back in a way. And then in the wee hours of the morning, the fire dies down. And I can look down into the night because I can see the reflection of the eyes, and the eyes of the animals that are moving closer and closer. And sometimes we feel that we feel the fire going. And we look around and there's some, there's some bit of fear might be out there. And that might be all around us. But still, we live the real answer. And, and it's it's a weird thing. Because it, it leaves us with a feeling that really holds with almost nothing else that we know about. Living in a technical age, we just believe that there's a technique that is suitable for everybody, that we have that for everything that that we literally have to have to be happy and functioning successful people that there is, there is a simple how to do it. And, and if you could just get hold of the house, do it. You can build your own furniture, you can put together your own stereo, you've been you can be self taught with Spanish. And the cop some of the things that are that are complex, if you can just get hold of the right kit.

12:58

The you can do it.

Landon Saunders 13:01

But we haven't yet discovered how to do it yet. But this emptiness, the loneliness and the pain, and the fear, uplift that we have as human beings. And it's frustrating.

13:15

It's just frustrating.

Landon Saunders 13:18

And the only how to do it. Information that we've ever had, we now have comes down and to really deep in our hearts wonder if anything that happened so many years ago could possibly make any real difference in the way we live today. And that's what we would like to consider tonight. Now in an effort to, to picture kind of what what of what first of all to commit to try to illustrate and I think maybe we'll be able to see well enough kind of what has really began to occur. The pivot we described a few moments ago in which we believe that we had things that were precious, that were important and valuable and and we that we held on to for dear life and that at least for a while they gave us a semblance of normalcy and stability. That at that time, bird own rich man lives was surrounded out here by a populated universe. For us, in early America, there was God, Jehovah God, the God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob historical personalities, the god of Jesus, the god of Peter and that there was there was a God to whom each of these love And then Jesus confess to be one with Him,

which is different from all the others. And, and even in other parts of the world, if God Himself was rejected, as we know him, there were gods that people believed were out there. And so it was a highly populated region and, and this will be a ship of earth that was hurtling through space, that tremendous rates of speed was somehow affected by something that that was outside by something that was around, there was a population other than, than the population of the earth, the population of man, that there was something out here.

15:51

And what we, what we really did

Landon Saunders 15:54

was, we came along, and with birth over here, something lying beyond birth, and death over here. And believing in something was beyond death. We came along and through a process of years, we slowly began to take these out. And we're not really sure what's out there now.

16:25

And so in the place,

Landon Saunders 16:27

the question marks and the question marks that have arisen out here, have suddenly made this a big question mark. So that what is in this unknown region, we worry about a little. We're not certain of what it is. And we can't let the question rest. And what's over here, we no longer certain about what it is. But again, there's something about it, that just won't let you read.

17:13

We're very unsatisfied, to be poor. At this point.

Landon Saunders 17:19

We're very unsatisfied, to yield our personal unique identity, to some kind of blind ebb and flow of something that we generally call life. And so we couldn't be populate this region without somehow having to reorder all of them are thinking about this. And so now we're wondering, you know, really, what it is, man? And, and is, is there any real difference between man and animal? You see, at one time, we believed there was a very significant difference. We believe that the man was made in the image of God which made him great and important,

18:16

and significant.

Landon Saunders 18:19

And a creature of indescribable destiny. But now, we're, we're we're confused about all of that. And we're wondering if, if somehow we made some kind of leap. A chasm which has never been bridged accidentally, between the animal and demand. And words like accountability, responsibility, freedom, the bar thing. These are opening the time. We don't have anything to really fix them to. There's nothing to anchor to. And so man, you see, with anchor pulled up,

19:07

he's just full.

Landon Saunders 19:10

And he just he wonder, Where am I and what am I? And I think maybe, that not a few people find themselves in the place of Shigella in those two STS novelists who said, at one point in the novel, he said, because my conclusions are in direct contradiction to my original premises. I began with unrestricted freedom. But I've wound up with unrestricted despotism. Here man with all of his optimism, you say finally, these shadow himself he felt From all of those fetters, and those balls and chains that that somehow held him down, he, he felt that he had liberated himself from all of that which he kind of lumped together and medieval thinking, and he was going to experience a tremendous surge of joy and freedom. And yet, the country that has gone, the farthest with that

20:26

is just ripped and shredded. Today with problems.

Landon Saunders 20:33

Although we may have even with inflation, enough food to the table and may not be steak, we may have substituted red beans or something. But we're getting by it's not, that's not the real problem. The real problem is who we are and what our children are going to do, and what am I going to ultimately come to? And it seems that we're no nearer an answer than man 1000 years ago, that all of our learning has not given us any clear direction, and has brought no intensive white to bear on the question that we need most to have answers for this time. Now, the consequences, or the consequences of, of this movement in which we depopulate the universe and, and we go out on our own, we take our birth, then we take our death, we take our destiny, we take the definition of selfhood, we take all of these in our own hands. And we're going to go it alone now. What's happened? What are the consequences of such investment? Well, you know, what, one of the strangest things of the 20th century we've suddenly repopulated this at least

22:10

20 million

Landon Saunders 22:13

who have bought lychee boards in the last few years you see what we took out what's called the supernatural back which lives outside but but we're not very content. And so we've put back a few demons here and there. And Americans have walked by the millions to see the exorcist and have come out in some instances vomiting frightened to death some who were on that fragile edge between sanity and insanity have gone over the edge we've been fooled and insulted by a shocking slit colorful and we have allowed our minds and our hearts to become so unstable. That ever how long the film is, and Seamus up as a weird thing. We put the demons back.

23:30

Or else we we didn't put the drugs in at this point.

Landon Saunders 23:36

Drugs that somehow can free us and and take our consciousness into another realm. They want to release them. We want to escape we want to somehow get out here anywhere but here we are. And we will go to any means to make abrasion to drugs that are considered deeply dangerous. And that cause human beings to do bizarre things when under the influence of them. We also have an especially if we're respectable folks. We have more respectable drugs, to calm our fears and to get us to sleep and to get us cranked up in the morning. But we're not able to be alone. Our guilt is still there. And our emptiness is still there. And our loneliness is still there. And not a little bit of fear

24:42

trying to get out.

Landon Saunders 24:45

And even more bizarre is the Satan worship of today. The Church of Satan on the West Coast and then a religious town, a burgeoning town like Memphis, Tennessee. The Church of Satan in Abilene, Texas, Mo, he's got to be one of the more religious towns of the country. He's got a Methodist College and a Baptist College and a church of Christ scholars. But they're a Satan worshippers. They're a professor at Memphis State University. A counselor told me three young men and this is great even mentioned. You have blood loss, a loss for human blood. And they get it a Member State campus it's a bizarre kind of thing and, and it can't be just dismissed. You see, there is someone who is responsible not only for the rise and the feeling of demonization and the drug culture and Satanism. But now a Mr. Moon, for his Unification Church, in just a brief span of years going to million members going to be the Messiah in America, and the United States

26:31

this this land who, which boasts of being enlightened, we lead the world. And yet in the matters, that are most important, the matters of just what it is to be a human being RNA is to know truth and how it is that we all live.

Landon Saunders 26:53

We are subject to any huckster who comes through the land. We do not have a judicious way of looking at things anymore, we are no longer discriminating, we are no longer able to, to evaluate and determine which things have more important than other things. We decided that our guts, not with our minds at the subreddit, situation, but it's where we are.

27:33

And then maybe, maybe even more alarming

Landon Saunders 27:40

than any of these are as bizarre as some of them may be the rise of a mass consciousness a kind of monolithic culture in which there are individual complaints about what they call assembly line living, where you are perfectly content to live with the herd instinct when it comes to their own life, and this

28:15

was perfectly

Landon Saunders 28:19

what we mean by that is this. The object is to get the questions that we're probing tonight, so difficult, and so complex. The object is for for us somehow to be brainwashed into believing that there is no answer that nobody really knows. And if you could ever accomplish that trick, it brings amazing sleep. Because if nobody really knows that how could you just a simple everyday working person be held accountable

29:06

so there's a freedom that comes with this.

Landon Saunders 29:10

And it just is a consequence of some awesome insane I think it's the consequence of, of people who have concluded

29:24

that religion

Landon Saunders 29:26

isn't really a viable issue in modern life. They, their idea their views that religion have become so diminished that they can easily compartmentalize it and sweep it out with the with the rest of the mental garbage, that we purge ourselves from the flatter and all the rest. We we permitted ourselves As a member of the crowd, to let a few elitist tell us where we are. And we have yielded the most precious freedom that any human being has with us the freedom to think, the freedom to decide when you feel that freedom there's a question the house human, you remain. I think Chesterton was right when he said, When men went believing in God, they don't believe in nothing. They believe in anything. And that's where we are. Now, when we come back, and we try to find some kind of answer for all of this. For where do we, where do we go, what I'd like to do now in a few moments, is just to, to suggest really one central basic fact I want to put the earth back. That's the advantage of Blackboard, you put the earth down, you can take it all that will, they will put birth back here, and we'll put death over here. Now Christ would say in his word, that the first the first thing, the first move, the first step that person can take, is to do what we just suggested. Jesus said, think you must think.

31:48

And if you don't think you're going to be lost,

Landon Saunders 31:54

not not simply lost in eternity, but you're going to be lost. Now. You're going to be empty. Now you're going to be lonesome. Now you're going to suffer now, if you don't play. And I like to remind young people that that's the hardest work on Earth

32:16

is the work of thinking.

Landon Saunders 32:20

It's easier to get lost and sound.

32:24

It's easier to escape with speed.

Landon Saunders 32:28

Whether it's 60 or 70 miles an hour, or something that you can easily pop down your throat. But it's easy to get, it's easy to escape and get motion doesn't make any difference whether the motions have any meaning or not. But just be in motion, perpetual motion. And the faster you go, the less you have to think for like a little speedboat to skim the surface

32:55

rather than the ocean liner,

Landon Saunders 32:56

the flowers the death. And when the common man of society refuses to think we've had

33:12

we've had the people we met.

Landon Saunders 33:18

And so the first thing tonight that we'd like to suggest is that, that the that one of the greatest weaknesses that you have, and a dignity that no matter what happens in society, you cannot be deprived or that no man can deprive you out is the freedom. I've decided that on the issues we're talking about tonight. I will ultimately trust nobody. Nobody in the sense that I would just deal that mind freedom to another person. I love teachers. I love those who bring light. But I want to be discriminating. And I'd like to urge everyone who's here tonight who will be here this week, not to accept blind blood. That's an insult to your intelligence. We're here to think and we're not afraid of thinking. And I want you to think judiciously and with discrimination and evaluation, but make it stand dresses from every angle. You can't afford to do otherwise be the set as a man thinketh in his heart. So that's up for found line. Now, the second thing that Christianity would would say is begin And with the tempest begin to test. And I like to suggest that really, whatever problems we have, there's a problem. Cell there's a problem of sand. There's a problem of destiny, or a problem of death, that all of these problems have all of these problems.

35:38

The one that has so far stun everybody, except Jesus is that

Landon Saunders 35:50

you know, when, when philosopher and theologian, when factory worker, and young person grabbed for that last gasp, where they're all saying there's only one way to die. That's like an amateur. There are

no professional. There are no experts. It is the, the one that knocks the side, out of many knee compact theories of reality. There are people who have worked out the whole system of human life. And only defined that this is one part

36:45

that they couldn't handle.

36:48

This is an unknown.

Landon Saunders 36:50

Nobody knows. Now, God comes on the scene and the person of Jesus. And in essence, he says now to the human race. Let's just bypass everything. And let's deal with this one.

37:10

We can deal with that one.

37:12

Why then they will at least the sufficient reasons for you to think about what it involves. And if we can't solve that one thing, we're no better than any of the rest.

Landon Saunders 37:29

Now, that's pretty neat, you have to know. Now just just walk up and take hold of the tempest thing. And if you can come off winner there. It certainly does raise the possibilities of your being able to struggle with other matters. And so if we could present it as some kind of scene, it's, it's as though God comes on the scene. And he, he gets the attention of the whole human race. And he says now, to all the humans.

38:02

I want, I want to show you.

Landon Saunders 38:06

You've been worried about death, and you've tried to find the answers there. For centuries, there have been glimmerings of hope here and there. And we've revealed some things back here about it.

38:21

But now I want I want to show you what that is love.

Landon Saunders 38:28

And then Jesus comes onto the scene. And the next thing we see is a crucifixion and the death of a man. And then that same man and a few hours

38:46

appeared to hundreds and hundreds of people alive.

Landon Saunders 38:53

God is saying, now watch. I want to show you once and for all what that is. And then he reaches into every one of our futures. And he gets hold of them. And he pulls it right back into the present. We watch it. We see Jesus like the last dance. We see his eyes stitched together, we see his lips that we don't run on smile. We see his body that had been involved. And God says Don't take your eyes away. He's looking. He's looking. And pretty soon those same eyes open. And those same lips are open. And this same person arrived. And God says now to all these humans.

39:47

That's what that means

Landon Saunders 39:55

is that we sometimes quickly think wow, you know that I think that's great. But before we conclude that it's great.

40:08

You know what that leaves on our hands? Why is death is the flickering candle?

Landon Saunders 40:20

That light is the tournament issue. And so it's God's way of saying again, the big question really isn't death. Death is a kindergarten question. As compared to the question of life. It's not how shall a man die?

40:44

The real question is, how shall the man live?

Landon Saunders 40:50

And it's not simply a question which inquires how children live in eternity. But it's a question which asks How to Remember. Now the only thing we want to add at that point is that cannot be

41:14

dismissed as stupid.

Landon Saunders 41:20

That is not medieval malarkey.

41:25

That's heavy. That's really hit. Now, can it be substantiated?

Landon Saunders 41:32

That's what we'll have to be working on, as we proceed through the week. But I'd like now to to leave you tonight with with one additional.

41:47

Just good thought.

Landon Saunders 41:51

I think we, the people today they're away from newspapers and television sets and everything else. With with a map to add the burden. I want to tell you something, it's wonderful. You know, a while ago, we had all these demons, Satanism, the occult, and all of that around the sphere. Jesus came on the scene. And he said, you wonder what's down here. I can tell you what's down there. Because I just came from there. And then he told us, but no other dimension. has ever told him that.

42:47

Jesus said,

Landon Saunders 42:49

there is a God there is like a father.

42:54

And he loves me. God is love. And he wants you to know Him. And He wants to know you.

Landon Saunders 43:05

He wants you to know His love. There is something wrong in your heart. There is something there. But Stephen. No matter how much we tried to deny it. I think we all know tonight that not a one of us here has escaped a badness that's in our lives. There is not a person here who has all that he knows he ought to be. And because he wants to be. Jesus just says instead of saying that's, that's your environment and instead of taking some kind of psychological approach, Jesus said, No, it's real. It's as real as your hands. It's as real as a bird. There is a badness there. But instead of you're trying to work a lifetime and appease this being out there, he wants to forgive you. He wants to forgive. He wants to accept you. He wants you to walk into the stars and feel your nobility and dignity, your greatness. He wants you to feel right on the inside. He wants you to be a full and whole human being that that your son won't find difficult to love or your daughter. He wants you to define the kind of life that makes you fearless in the face of death. He wants you to began experiencing now a kind of life That's another thing that won't leave you an orphan when the flesh is peeled away. But that will continue to go on.

45:14

Now, is that

45:17

is that too much to believe?

Landon Saunders 45:20

You know, I wonder tonight for a moment earlier how much to say at this point. Because it's been my experience that a lot of people can can can relate to an awful lot of there. But those same people find it incredible to believe that God could love them. They just find it unbelievable. And somehow we have,

we have gone so far. That we just feel like we can never go home. Again. I hope that there's something in you tonight, no matter who you are. And no matter where you are, that it can respond

46:10

to the word of love.

Landon Saunders 46:15

With all the confusion, and all the complexity, and all the trouble, and all the disappointment, and all the implements, and all of them. There's a word of love, that can reach that just built into it. That's what the Bible is all about. That's why I believe it from the beginning to the end. I believe that it poses the richest answer, or man's most profound questions that can be found today. And it's brought to my life a sense of freedom and a sense of joy. That filled days with surprises. That makes me eager to get up in the morning. And it can do the same for any person who will thank and who will consider the answer that Jesus present. We're going to add a moment saying a verse and a ham. We're going to do this because we want to make available not not our invitation.

47:27

But heavens invitation.

Landon Saunders 47:32

We want to, for any person who might be with a serene and a bright, and who might want to take advantage of this opportunity. And I'm trying to get right, this band that opportunity to do so it's not, we're not going to sing this verse, to create any kind of pressure for anybody, but just in the event that someone might need some kind of help we might be able to offer. It was somewhere near this point, nearly 20 centuries ago. But some people ask men and brethren, what shall we do?

48:12

The answer that was given with a simple answer. And you can read it in the second chapter at verse 38.

Landon Saunders 48:21

He said we're in fact, that just simply means turn around from this way that you're walking from these things that you've done, that, that adds to your birth, at the best time, everyone in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as are simple words, but they're words that are Richmond meaning and if we could be of assistance to anybody tonight why you take advantage of this opportunity, if not during the singing of this verse. We'd be happy to remain afterwards and just talk about any of these things or whatever is on your heart because that's our aim is just to provide a place where we can think about some things that are important let's think the

49:18

bar the bar is no more bad heard.

49:51

You

49:59

here All?

50:19

Right.

Landon Saunders 50:25

Tomorrow night, we're going to, to kind of, again, where we're where we're leaving off tonight. And we're going to consider the question of who Jesus says. And we're going to try to just lay aside the things that we've kind of gathered from every place imaginable near like, and just to see who he is. And then what may seem like a more important question to a lot of people today.

50:59

Is he still available?

Landon Saunders 51:03

Or is that something that's all locked up and drawn out? In a few people's minds? to still have their heads in the sand? Can Jesus make a difference? In an age of space travel, and machines? Tomorrow night, we'll try to examine that.

51:27

Thank you for coming. Please come back. We're most happy to have you. If we can be of any assistance in getting us here in the transportation, please let us know. And when you leave this evening, I want to say be careful pulling out on the white horse side. We don't want any accidents, but the most cautious pulling out take your time, we want you to come back. And if any thing anyone wants to say or add that always, definitely there's coffee to be served and some cookies and let's stay around and get acquainted. Okay, this time, we're going to be dismissed. And I want to ask Brother DOM often, if you will.

52:11

Right. Heavenly Father, indeed, and great to see my son Jesus. Everything has to enter this building, to embrace the invites them to fall more love to see, oh, Lord, I want to add onto the things here. And that meant that over the center, get his loved ones and friends. We are grateful. Indeed, thank the wonderful message given to us by a Christian speaker, and we're looking around and we pray that the words that he has spoken and that they may stay with us to be diverse. May we as long as he might know about the try to pass on to many others who are unfortunately, not knowing that person Jesus is the universe and ahead of all mankind. We thank you Lord, he would have said we separate and bring us back together again, more evening we make against joy. Enjoy the with the invites. And again to hear the words of Brandon dining we pray amen.

53:43

On at all