



High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study "We Will Not Be Silenced" Series

Chapter 10: Wake Up! Strengthen what Remains!

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 | 7:00 PM

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America turns further from Christian values and the core principles of liberty every day. It's frustrating when you feel like you can't assert Biblical truth without facing condemnation. It's sad that outrage and victimhood have replaced respect and reason. How can you stay rooted in your own faith and continue publicly testifying for Jesus?

In *We Will Not Be Silenced*, Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer gets us ready to live out our convictions against a growing spirit of hostility by obtaining a better understanding of non-believers' legitimate hurts and concerns regarding issues such as racism, sexism, and poverty, and identify the toxic responses secular culture disguises as solutions. In the process, we'll evaluate how we can witness, show compassion, and gentleness outside the faith without affirming their beliefs. *We Will Not Be Silenced* (WWNBS) will prepare you to move beyond fear and boldly accept the challenge of representing Christ to a watching world that needs Him now more than ever before.

1. Well, tonight we finish this series. I've enjoyed the book, but I've especially enjoyed our spending time together and some of the great discussions we've had. It is so good to get together, study the Bible, and share our thoughts together! What are some things that have stood out to you in reading *We Will Not Be Silenced*?
2. I'd call Chapter 10 "the application chapter." It was my favorite part of the book and I thought Dr. Lutzer did a great job challenging us as Jesus did the church at Sardis in Revelation 3:1-6 (see below).
 - a. What did Jesus say about their reputation? In what ways can our lives look like that?
 - b. In the context of this discussion, what is meant by "wake up?"
 - c. What awaits those who are victorious and have not "soiled their clothes?"

¹To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

⁴Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

3. In the section entitled, *Hearing the Voice of Jesus Today*, Dr. Lutzer postulates what Jesus might have to share with us were He to speak in our church today.
 - Be resolved to be Gospel-driven in your life and witness.
 - Be resolved that you will not bow to the culture's sexual revolution.
 - Be resolved to love Me passionately and suffer well for My Name.
 - a. On the bottom of page 248 Dr. Lutzer shares statistics on Millennials (Gen Y) and their view on sharing the Gospel? What happens when followers of Jesus stop sharing the Gospel?
 - b. In 2 Timothy 3:3-4 we read the following text. Assuming we're in the "last days" what do we see in our society today that parallels the descriptions in this passage?

¹But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.
 - c. Why is sexual purity so important? Consider Paul's words in Ephesians 5:1-16.
 - d. Read John 8:1-11. In this passage Jesus did an amazing thing in not condoning the sin of the adulterous woman, but also exhorting her to a life of purity.
 - i. How did the "shaming" technique employed by the teachers of the law differ from Jesus' method of "truth with compassion" in terms of both its message and effectiveness?
 - ii. What can we learn from Jesus in reading this passage?
4. I have provided a copy of the article, *The Church Boy Who Never Grew Up*, written by Daron Roberts (July 2, 2020). It is an excellent article that addresses many of the male-dominated issues facing our nation. To be brutally honest, I would say a vast majority of the issues facing our nation are due to poor fathering. The list includes angry people (especially women) who are bitter towards their neglectful fathers, girls who were abused physically and emotionally, sons who were not taught right from wrong and did not see male headship modeled well, and in the church men who did not model Jesus well at home (i.e., they provided for the physical needs of their families, but neglected their emotional needs and did not pursue Jesus well).
 - a. In what ways have you failed as a man in pursuing Jesus?
 - b. In what ways have you done well in pursuing Jesus?
 - c. We have seven months left in 2022. List three (3) activities you can undertake to strengthen your walk with Jesus that impact your wife, children, grandchildren (if you have them), and friends. Be specific and prepared to share.