



Tough Love - Week 1

Message Discussion Questions

Introduction:

This week Chance begins a brand new series called 'Tough Love'. How do you feel about tough love? Tough love isn't easy to get and it's not easy to give. Do you accept it or push back against it because it's too hard? Tough love is best given or received within relationship...it's necessary for growth.

In Week 1 we will start looking at the idea of tough love and how Jesus used tough love to prepare us for what's ahead.

Questions:

1. How would you define Tough Love? What's the value of tough love? Why did Jesus use tough love on multiple occasions?
2. What is the lesson from the fig tree? Why is the context and timeframe for this tough love conversation important? How can you learn about what is to come from what you see on the fig tree?
Matthew 24:32-33
3. Is it important to know what generation Jesus is referring to? Is this statement encouraging to you? Why is it important what will not pass away? Matthew 24:34-35
4. Is it surprising to you that no one else knows the day or the hour, only the Father? Does the idea that He is coming again scare you? Matthew 24:36

5. Why is there 'danger in the mundane' as Chance described it? What could be wrong with 'business as usual'? Is it easy for you to get stuck in the day to day normal stuff of living? Matthew 24:37-39
6. How do you react to the idea that 'one will be taken and the other left'? Will you be caught off guard when He comes again, or will you be ready? What choice do you have that goes back to the beginning of time? Matthew 24:40-41
7. What does it mean to 'keep watch' as Jesus said many times in scripture? How does this refer to the internal as well as the external? What happens if He comes when you don't expect Him? Are you always on guard? Matthew 24:42-44
8. Is the life you are living honoring to God? Is this where you want to be when Jesus comes back?
9. If you are unsure about God, what is giving you reservation? Is it how hard life is? Do you believe that God is good?
10. If Jesus were to return now, what would He say about you? How important are His repeated words of "Keep Watch"?

Key Takeaway: *Are you ready for Jesus to return? Do you know how to keep watch? How can you be on guard, how can you be ready knowing that Jesus is coming back?*

Summary:

- What is tough love? - Love or affectionate concern expressed in a stern or unsentimental manner (as through discipline) especially to promote responsible behavior. How did Jesus demonstrate tough love?
- The lesson of the fig tree... Matthew 24:32-33
- This generation will not pass away... Matthew 24:34-35
- No one knows the day or hour... Matthew 24:36
- Danger in the mundane... Matthew 24:37-39
- One will be taken... Matthew 24:40-41
- Keep watch... Matthew 24:42-44
- Is the life I am living honoring to God? Is this where you want to be when Jesus comes back
- If you are unsure about God, what is giving you reservation? Is it how hard life is? Is God good?
- If Jesus were to return now, what would He say about you? How important are His repeated words of "Keep Watch"?