



Jesus Speaks: Pt. 3; Smyrna - Faith Unto Death

Though Jesus knows our fears, he never promises to take away the troubles that cause fear. Though he knows the pain we experience in this world, he tells us that there may be more. However, in the midst of all of this, Jesus tells us do not be afraid. He is the first and the last; beginning and the end. When we give our life over to him, our eternity rests with him. Two births, one death.

Bottom Line: Jesus must be bigger to us than death itself.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of your biggest fears as a child. Why were you afraid of those things?
2. How does the talk of death and dying affect you?
3. Around the world, in what ways are today's Christians persecuted? How is that different than the way Christians are treated in America?
4. **Read Revelation 2:8-11.** Describe way(s) which you have been persecuted because of your faith. Did you struggle in making the decision or was it easy? What was the result?
5. In verse 9, Jesus tells the Christians in Smyrna that they are rich even though they are experiencing affliction and poverty. What do you think Jesus meant by that? Describe ways in which you are rich in your current life.
6. **Read Peter 3:14-17.** How can suffering for Jesus and his Kingdom be a blessing?
7. How do you prepare yourself for difficult times because of your commitment to Jesus? At work? At School? In your neighborhood? In your family?
8. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
9. How can the group encourage you this week?