

Breaking News

It seems these days that it is not enough to have news. Americans hunger for more, for news that is happening at the moment. So now most websites offer “breaking news”, television news programs have the banner “breaking news” under the video as the anchor describes what is going on.

So what is breaking news? And is breaking news any more important than regular or ordinary news?

It’s in the dictionary. Breaking news is “newly received information about an event that is currently occurring or developing.” Webster

The breaking news of faith is what God wants for us as Christians and as the church every day. He began the news cycle of Christianity with the good news of great joy to all the people that the angels told to the shepherds 2000 years ago. It was that Jesus had just been born at a stable in Bethlehem. They left their flocks and immediately went to see him.

So how do we react to breaking news? If it is good news, we lean forward and open our eyes and ears to take it in. If it is bad news we might lean the other way, flip the channel, or turn the television off.

Some people say, “It can’t be true,” or “say it ain’t so!”

Some want to know more. Others ignore it as if it will go away.

But news is news. And good news is preferable to bad.

Roma Downy, who played an angel on TV, wrote: “Growing up in Ireland, when my family received important news, good or bad, we would boil water and make tea. It was the first thing I did when my father died in 1984. This ritual allowed me a moment to take in the enormity of what had happened.”

Perhaps today God is telling us to slow down a little, to pause in the face of new news, or breaking news, to take in just what has really happened, and how it might or might not affect the world, or us as individuals and families as well.

How much news is out there? Jerry Seinfeld, the consummate stand-up comic, said, "It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper!"

Funny thought, for we all know that there is much more news than in a day. Of course the editor decides what will go in or not. What is important, and what can wait till tomorrow.

The problem with newspaper news is that by the time you read it, it is many times literally yesterday's news. Yesterday's news is important, but the opportunity to create news is more important.

Jesus asked us to follow him and make disciples. He commands us today to change the world, to make it better, and to teach and help people every day.

In a very real way, God wants and inspires us to make breaking news happen on a regular basis in the church. He wants to see healing and hope find their way into people's hearts. He wants us to feed the hungry, to help people rebuild their houses and lives.

God seeks young hearts which can be turned on to his glorious presence. He seeks to have people stand up and do something which is big enough to be included in the newspaper or on the television news.

The ironic thing is that the big news begins as something very small. It may begin with a prayer in the quiet of the morning, when you and God have a private conversation.

It could start with a smile, a nod, or a wink. Perhaps the stroke of a pen or the typing of a key on the keyboard. The picking up of a telephone, the sending of an email, the walking through a door at a specific time and place.

For when we respond to God's nudges, big things happen. When we trust him to lead us, we go to spectacular places. When we take the first step of trusting that God will indeed do what he said he will do, miracles occur.

Are you a part of breaking news of and for God? Or are the things which happen old news, or so old they are not even news at all.

John Piper wrote that, "The best news of the Christian gospel is that the supremely glorious Creator of the universe has acted in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection to remove every obstacle between us and himself so that we may find everlasting joy in seeing and savoring his infinite beauty."

Everywhere that Jesus went, it was breaking news. He is ready to walk with us so that it is the same where we go.

If we can take that breaking news, and share with someone else so that the changes in their life become breaking news for them, we will have created a new news cycle right then and there.

So consider how you respond to news. Brew that pot of tea. See how it impacts you. And let God make it new!