



Week #4: Fog Area

- 1. WHEN FOG SETTLES IN AROUND US, WE LOSE THE ABILITY TO SEE THINGS AS THEY REALLY ARE. SMOKE IS LIKE FOG, IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE THROUGH.**
 - a. Smoke is black, toxic, and deadly.
 - b. There is a firefighting device that can see through the smoke, it gives clarity of vision.
- 2. NEXT WEEK WE LAUNCH INTO THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE.**
 - a. Narrative of God's story
 - b. There are other narratives:
 - I. They debilitate and prevent missionary discipleship
 - II. They direct us away from God.
- 3. THE RECURRING MESSAGE IS THAT BEING GOOD IS TOO HARD, TOO BORING, AND UNDESIRABLE.**
 - a. We need a break from the burden.
 - b. Good is bad or tiresome; bad is good and exciting.
- 4. BIOLOGY REVEALS A REALITY OUTSIDE OF WHAT IS VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.**
 - a. Thermal imager AND microscope
 - b. Scripture reveals a reality hidden behind the fog.
- 5. SECULAR ESTABLISHMENT AGGRESSIVELY PUSHES GOD TO THE PERIPHERY.**
 - a. Christians are irrational, superstitious, and uneducated.
 - b. Tolerant of diversity; harsh toward outward expression of faith.
- 6. FEAR MAKES MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP INEFFECTIVE.**
 - a. Fear of backlash, being different, out-of-step
 - b. *"be not afraid...of their words or their looks."*
Ezekiel 2:6
- 7. CULTURE PREFERS CHRISTIANS WHO VACILLATE AND ARE UNSURE.**
 - a. Keep religion private
 - b. Passionate Christians are dangerous and violent
- 8. THE FOG CAN PREVENT US FROM SEEING OUR PURPOSE AND GOAL.**
 - a. Meaningful encounter with the Lord
 - I. Every heart yearns for the encounter
 - II. We often resist the encounter
 - b. Encounter leads to conversion of heart.
- 9. THE GOAL IS TO BECOME A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE.**

QUOTE:

"The more violently men hate truth, the more they think about it; the more they fear the goodness that demands perfection, the more they know it is what they really seek."

Life of Christ, Bishop Fulton Sheen, Image Publishers, ©1977

QUESTIONS for reflection/discussion:

1. Do I recognize the effects of the fog in my own life? How?
2. Do I find it difficult to see beyond the physical?
3. Do I feel the secular pressure to keep my faith to myself?
4. Do I find the thought of being a missionary disciple challenging and/or frightening?

