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Long Beach Alliance Church • July 17, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Breaking

Bad

1) Breaking Bad Comes In Attractive Packaging

- A) Breaking Bad was a dark & hugely popular television show about a High School chemistry teacher (Walter White) who contracts terminal lung cancer. He turns to a life of crime (making/selling methamphetamine) in order to provide a financial future for his family.
- B) Oddly enough, there is something admirable about the idea of Breaking Bad. Despite terminal odds, Walter White finds a way to walk through his pain while "raising hell" (Breaking Bad). We relate to a broken man providing for a broken family, even if it is insane & illegal.
- C) This type of Patrick Henry 'liberty or death' determination, with a wicked mix of 'John Wayne' American frontiersman independence, has a kind of romantic appeal. Especially valued in America, an unconquerable independence is a prized core value. With Sinatra, we applaud those who say, "I DID IT MY WAY..."

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

(John 3.17-18)

*Do not go gentle into that good night
by dylan thomas*

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.



ALL BAD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

2) *The Gospel Is Bad News*

- A) Into this rage-against-death & take-no-prisoners identity enters Jesus Christ, who came declaring and demonstrating "the Gospel of God's Kingdom," or in plain English, 'good news from God for mankind.'
- B) Jesus lived out the Kingdom of God, and revealed a reversal of values and power structures of our world (Matthew 5:3-11). Jesus changes everything!
- C) Jesus' life was radical and even offensive! The trusted voices of Christ's day taught that confidence with God came through behavioral habits and working hard by following numerous rules and traditions (Luke 11:37-52).
- D) Worst of all, people believed the lie that change on the inside comes through good behavior on the outside. If you follow the right rules rightly, you will be rightly transformed (NOT).
- E) Jesus was bad news against this kind of teaching and living! The Gospel teaches people are changed through love and grace, which is only achieved through submissive faith (John 3:16-18).
- F) It's easy to fall into trusting "good works," isn't it? Hard work and good behavior are a good thing, right? If people don't obey God, how can they ever learn without paying the price for their sin? Gotta break the bad, right?!



3) *The Gospel Is Good News*

- (A) Here is the good news of the Gospel. The price for your sin is paid. The Gospel comes at a horrible cost, but it painfully and completely paid the debt of sin (Romans 6:23).
- (B) The world promises that hard work and discipline result in a great life which is significant and counts. But like a dog after its tail, this leaves us chasing the impossible (Matthew 16:26). The promises of this world lead to disappointment (Luke 11:13-21).
- (C) The Gospel promises are far better, assuring the goodness of Christ will be credited to your life. Christ takes your sin, your old identity, and forgives your past, present, and future (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- (D) And the Gospel doesn't stop there! We come to God just as we are, but God doesn't leave us in that condition. He loves us, and makes sure the Gospel keeps doing its good work today and forever (Ephesians 2:8-10)!

