

**Bumper Video – Mortality Theatre

<TITLE DUMB WAYS TO DIE .WMV>

If you don't learn anything else today... make sure you learn that tazers don't cure venomous Snake bites.

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Darwin

The story you just heard we found at the website DarwinAwards.com. That website features story after story of people who have done some unthinkably stupid things – many times resulting in death. Thankfully the story we shared was non-fatal, but there are many on the site who aren't as fortunate.

A few examples...

There was a guy who heard his truck making a thumping noise... to investigate he tied himself under the truck and had his friend drive the truck...

We can learn a lot from the dumb mistakes of others....

The woman with the snake bite shouldn't have trusted the advice of the healing power of 50,000 volts of electricity. Can we agree on that right? When it didn't work the 1st time... she shouldn't have trusted it the 2nd time... right?

In fact let's just put this out there...

<Trust shouldn't come easy>

It would be DUMB to put your life in the hands of someone who hasn't earned your trust...

DOCTOR – needs to have a certificate, years of practice, knowledge

DENTIST – before you let him in your mouth

LAWYER – Fighting for your freedom

HANDYMAN –

AIRLINE PILOT –

SPIRITUAL LEADERS –

You don't really know me – It's normal to not trust me yet. I know that Trust must be earned... TRUST SHOULDN'T COME EASY

HAVE YOU EVER TRUSTED SOMEONE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRUSTED? HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN BAD ADVICE? HAVE YOU EVER BELIEVED SOMEONE WHEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE?

I think we have all done this... An all too common occurrence... Don't believe me...

WE TRUST PEOPLE WE HAVEN'T MET.

Ever trust something from someone on the internet, someone you have never met? We do it all the time...

Blog, google search, pinterest.... If it's on the internet it has to be true

How about the NEWS – They often report wrong info – This past week the bombing in Boston had us believing at one time that the Kennedy library had been bombed, in another instance had us believing that the bombers had been arrested and were being taken to court.

WE TRUST THE ADVICE OF PEOPLE WHO, UPON INVESTIGATING THEIR LIFE, SHOULDN'T BE GIVING ADVICE.

Out of shape person giving you health advice.

Relationship advice from someone on their 5th marriage.

Financial advice from someone in credit card debt

WE TRUST PEOPLE WHO SOMETIMES MEAN US HARM OR WANT TO USE US

Great news – There is a prince in Africa that needs \$1000 from me but once I wire him the money he will give me \$2000.

Fishing internet sites.... It's a site that looks like the login screen of a legitimate site... but it isn't. Once you login they have stolen your information.

POLITICIAN - Ever believe a politician? They seem to only want your vote.

NOT EVERYONE TRYING TO HELP YOU IS ACTUALLY HELPING YOU – Trust shouldn't come easy.

Anybody have trust issues? **Much worse than not being able to trust – is to trust TOO easily!**

Trust is a journey. Trust is the finish line of a race we are still running.

There are people who attend Redemption, people who are members... That don't yet Trust. Maybe they don't fully trust the ministry yet, they might not trust the bible yet, they may not trust that there really is a God yet.

What do we say to that...? We say great!

If you have trust issues... you've wandered into the perfect place.

Redemption Church wouldn't you agree that we are all working through our trust issues... trust in God, trust in each other... We have faith, but we are still learning to trust.

<CITY OF REFUGE>

I want to share a bible story with you. It's a fairly obscure one... It has a lot to say about trust.

Israel in the old testament was a lot like the old west... There wasn't a lot of law enforcement officers or a great judicial court system. If someone was after you, you had very few options. You either fought or you ran.

In this culture of EYE FOR AN EYE the nation set up 6 cities of refuge.

Joshua 20:3 ..anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.

Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth, Golan

Fast forward

2 Kings – Saul who is King and David who will be King.

2 Opposing Generals – Abner (King Saul) & Joab (David who would become king)

ASAHEL - Abner had killed the brother of Joab in battle... Joab wouldn't forget this fact.

JOAB

As the Kingdom of Saul was declining and the Kingdom of David was rising Abner approached David in the city of **HEBRON**. He promises allegiance to David and calls him the future and rightful King of Israel. David sends Abner from Hebron to influence people from team Saul to team David.

Right after Abner departs, General Joab arrives. He is furious that David let Abner depart. Joab wants revenge...

2 Samuel 3:26-27

Joab then left David and sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah. But David did not know it.

Now when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the gateway, as though to speak with him privately. And there, to avenge the blood of his brother Asahel, Joab stabbed him in the stomach, and he died.(NIV)

2 Samuel 3:33

Then the king sang this funeral song for Abner: "Should Abner have died as fools die?(NLT)

Abner died like a fool. What a shame...

It's not a shame that he died.... We all die. There is no shame in that...

THE SHAME IS...

He trusted the wrong person - He knew Joab.... He recognized him....

He died at the Gate of the city of refuge...

He could have been saved at the gate if he would have pleaded his case....

<Where is the nearest city of refuge for you?>

Do you have a safe place you can go?

Good & Godly counsel

Real Friends – People willing to sacrifice themselves for you

<The Enemy wants to draw you away from Refuge>

Not every Relationship is a good Relationship

Not every opportunity is a good opportunity

Not all advice is good advice.

Don't let someone draw you away from refuge.

ANYONE WHO DRAWS YOU AWAY FROM REFUGE IS YOUR ENEMY.

Trusting the wrong person is a dumb way to die.

I have one more story from the bible I want to share with you. This one you have probably heard of.... You will recognize it eventually

<2 guys>

There are 2 guys in the bible...

Unnamed

We only know their fate.

We don't know how they came to be in their current circumstance....

Perhaps they.... Bad childhood, lacked family, real friends, product of a bad environment

Perhaps they made some terrible decisions, maybe they trusted the wrong people

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NIV) I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life...

The bible says that these <2 guys> were criminals... nothing specific... we don't know the crimes

We know that they were severe enough crimes that they were going to be executed...

Imagine with me... what does someone about to be executed think about... WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY. Regrets... I REALLY MESSED THINGS UP...

These 2 guys ended up

<HERE>

Luke 23:32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.(NIV)

Luke 23:33

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left.(NIV)

Just feet from

<This guy>

There were 6 cities of refuge in Israel... They wanted to make sure that everyone was close to their refuge.

These 2 guys... after all the mistakes they had made... the bad decisions, the missed opportunities, the wrong that they had done.... After all that... they were just feet from the Savior.... They were just feet from their city of refuge.

I believe with all my heart... that whatever we have done.... We are not far from our refuge....

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.(NIV)

They are just feet from Jesus. The one person they can trust. Jesus Christ is their refuge... and here they are...

This gives me hope.

How did they respond when they were so close to the savior?

Luke 23:39

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"(NIV)

Luke 23:40

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?(NIV)

Luke 23:41

We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."(NIV)

Luke 23:42

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."(NIV)

Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."(NIV)

MUSICIAN

2 GUYS – Both of them just feet from Jesus. They both died on their cross.

One died and went with Jesus that very day!

One died just feet from their city of refuge?

Are you dying just feet from your city of refuge?

**WENT WITH THE CROWD
REFUGE**

TRUSTED THE WRONG PEOPLE

FEET FROM

That's a dumb way to die... Not that dying is dumb... dying feet away from refuge is dumb...

Life or Death – Choose Life