

LIFE IN AMERICA IN THE SHADOW OF ASSINATION

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Big Idea:

This moment is a big deal because it is tragic, historic, evil, and catalytic, and Christians must respond to persecution and injustice with prayer, forgiveness, and action.

Why is this moment a big deal?

Big Idea

This is a moment the church must not miss. We do not want to pretend to do church. We want to be the church, with eyes to see the moment we are in, so we can be not yesterday's church but today's church, discerning the times and knowing how to act.

- In this time of national tragedy, crisis, disruption, and potentially chaos, there is a need for a clarifying word.
- That word is for the church.
- More importantly, that word is also for those who are not yet part of the church.
- Some have come back to church after a long time.
- Some have come for the first time ever.
- You do not show up to church with your act together.
- You show up to church so Jesus can get your act together.
- This is not a room full of people who have their act together, who are perfect.



- This is a room full of people who know the perfect man who is by grace helping them figure out how to get their life together.

Question 1

Why is this moment a big deal?

How should we think about it?

- Why the prayer vigil?
- Why the special service on Saturday?
- Why all the social media posts?
- Why a special three-part sermon series called *Turning Point USA*?

Four ways to understand the moment

1. It was tragic

- A wife lost a husband.
- Two small children lost a father.
- They will have no memory of him outside of videos and pictures.
- His three-year-old daughter ran to him when the rifle shot scared her.
- She ran to the very one who was bleeding out on the ground.
- She needed dad to hold her and tell her it was going to be okay.
- Dad will never do that again because dad is dead.

Key Emphasis:

This is human grief, family grief, personal grief.



2. It was historic

- It was a watershed event that changes everything.
- It was a Rubicon you cross and do not return from.
- The seal on attacking peaceful, loving, overtly public Christians calling for civil dialogue has been broken.
- It feels as if there is no going back.

Analogy:

A Rubicon you cross and don't return from.

3. It was evil

- Hell touched earth.
- Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- Jesus wants us to pray and embody heaven touching earth.
- What happened was hell sweeping across the nation.
- Fear rippled across hearts.

Key Emphasis:

Without Jesus, life on earth is hell.

- Without God, your life proves hell is touching earth.
- Your decisions.
- Your relationships.
- Your emotional framework.



- Your mental torment.
- The demons that haunt and torment you.
- Without Jesus on earth, life is hell.

4. It was a failure

- It was an attempt to silence a voice.
- But the voice of Charlie Kirk was not limited to a man.
- That voice was driven and empowered by Jesus Christ, who is still very much alive.
- This wicked attempt to silence one voice will ignite 10,000 voices, 100,000 voices, a million voices.

Illustration:

Before: "Go Charlie, go. Eat the popcorn."

Now: "Holy smokes, who would go if I don't?"

Key Emphasis:

The shift has happened.

- He was the champion in the ring.
- Now the question is, who is going to go?
- The prayer is that a generation raises its hand and says, "I'll go."

Evidence that the attempt failed

TPUSA growth after his death

- TPUSA had 900 college chapters and 1,200 high school chapters.
- Charlie had spent his life building them.



- His dream was that the number would double, then triple, maybe even quadruple.
- In 48 hours after his death, 32,000 requests for TPUSA chapters went in.
- TPUSA grew by over 3,455% in 48 hours.

A grid for interpreting the moment

Big Idea

To understand what is happening, you must look through five lenses:

- Historical
- Sociological
- Political
- Spiritual
- Biblical

Supporting explanation

- Historical: what always happens in the past as a pattern
- Sociological: what always happens with people that is predictable
- Political: what always happens in a nation regarding policies
- Spiritual: what is going on behind the veil through principalities and powers
- Biblical: what God is doing in the world in his purposes

Historically: assassination destabilizes a nation

- Public political assassinations create destabilization.



- They confront us with our mortality and fragility.
- Think Lincoln.
- Think JFK.
- Think Martin Luther King.
- Think Bobby Kennedy.

What makes this different

- Those earlier events came to us in frozen frames.
- A few shots.
- A few glimpses.
- This event was broadcast in living color all over social media for the world to see.

Illustration:

Earlier assassinations were seen in fragments; this one was experienced live, everywhere, all at once.

Politically: the impact was massive

Charlie's role

- JD Vance said he would not have run as VP or connected with Donald Trump apart from Charlie Kirk's relationship, friendship, and influence.
- Donald Trump said that without Charlie Kirk, his influence, his work, and TPUSA's voter activation, he would not be president.
- Christian people filled with the Spirit are working hard through government policy to turn the nation back to Jesus as his rule is acknowledged.

Key claim



- None of that happens without Charlie Kirk.

Further emphasis

- Without Charlie Kirk, there is no White House access like that.
- Without Charlie Kirk, there is no same political moment.
- Without Charlie Kirk, there will never be a Charlie Kirk presidency.

Illustration / Analogy:

He was the Steve Jobs of the political realm.

- Started in his garage.
- Moved to national and global influence.

Supporting arguments

He had what would be required for future presidency:

- Young
- Connected with youth
- Could win the youth vote
- Understood the political machine
- Could campaign relentlessly
- Could debate on stage
- Had business savvy
- Led a thousand-employee organization
- Had global connections



Key Emphasis:

There will never be a Charlie Kirk presidency, and that impact cannot be quantified.

Spiritually: this is overt war**Big Idea**

This is not primarily political. It is overtly spiritual.

- This is demonic.
- What used to be a covert cold war is now an overt open war.
- That is what people are feeling in their spirit.

Supporting examples

- Mocking Jesus, spitting on him, scorning him on the way to Golgotha
- Officials unable to muster a moment of silence
- Sick, twisted videos online mocking his murder
- Celebrating his death
- Desecrating his memory
- Villainizing him for years
- Calling him a threat to democracy
- Calling him a modern-day Hitler, then pretending sadness after murder
- Twisting clips and words

Key Emphasis:

You do not get to spend years cultivating murder in the heart and then act grieved when it comes out in public.

Biblical argument

- Murder starts in the heart.
- If you hate a man in your heart, murder is already there.

Moral asymmetry

- There is asymmetry between the two political parties.
- Moral asymmetry.
- One is not like the other.

Hell's mission statement

Big Idea

Hell has a mission statement: **steal, kill, destroy**.

Supporting arguments

- Steal people's money without proper representation
- Murder the most vulnerable among us
- Demand a constitutional right to tyrannize life in the womb
- Destroy women by telling them they would be better as men
- Destroy men by feminism that tells them to lay down manhood
- Destroy and dismantle the nuclear family
- Destroy men, women, families, communities

Key Emphasis:

"Steal, kill, destroy" is the mission statement of hell, and it has become the party platform of some politics in the nation.



Church's responsibility

- The church has not gotten more political.
- Politics have gotten more religious.
- They moved into our lane.
- They make claims about morality.
- The church has a moral obligation before God to say no.

What the church must say

- You do not get to define marriage.
- You do not get to define when life begins.
- You do not get to define what a man is or a woman is.
- God has set the boundaries of the ocean and of morality.
- It is the church's job to be the conscience of the nation.

Why this feels so difficult

10 reasons given

1. Good versus evil

- The spiritual war has become undeniable.
- It has spilled over into real life.
- This is not fear anymore.
- This is high-stakes reality.

2. He was killed for beliefs Christians hold



- He was killed for beliefs that every Bible-believing Christian holds.
- It could have been any one of us.
- He was making persuasive arguments for Jesus publicly.
- If he is not safe, nobody is.

3. He was uniquely gifted and anointed

- Like losing one of the captains of the team.
- You knew you could win with him on the field.

4. His murder was gruesome in public

- It was degrading to someone made in the image of God.
- If you saw the images, you will never unsee them.

5. Evildoers are delighting in evil

- Progressive leftists and their demons are celebrating.
- Even secular atheists with some humanity left are saying this is disgusting.
- Many are saying, "I'm out."

6. Sympathy for his family

- Young kids will hear about their dad but never know him personally.

7. People felt like they knew him

- Many listened to him for countless hours.
- Many were impacted by his work.



- Even those who never met him miss him.
- One of the things missed most is what he would say about tomorrow's events.

8. He represented the American dream

- Self-made
- Built something big at a young age
- Started in his garage
- Changed the world

9. Common grace should be recognized

- You may not agree with Bill Gates or Steve Jobs.
- But you should still recognize the work, sacrifice, and contribution.
- So too with Charlie Kirk.

10. We cannot bring him back

- Our helplessness is exposed.
- We cannot control our lives.

Why the grief runs so deep

Grief does not measure itself by proximity. It measures itself by meaning.

Supporting truths

- You did not have to know him personally to feel the sting of his absence.
- When a voice like his goes silent, something in the atmosphere shifts.



- This is not just about a man.
- It is about a battle.
- Eternity is written on our hearts.
- When someone who carried truth with boldness is suddenly gone, eternity aches within us.
- Darkness celebrated.
- That strikes us at the core.

Psychological dimension

- We do not just attach ourselves to people.
- We attach ourselves to symbols.
- Charlie became a symbol:
 - conviction in a time of compromise
 - courage in a time of fear

When a symbol is struck down, it rattles something primal and eternal inside us.

Why his death is unique

Big Idea

This was not merely a political assassination.

- At the core of Charlie's being was his love for Jesus Christ.
- The good news of the gospel drove his message.
- His ministry was built around showing how the biblical worldview touches every part of life.



- He was not murdered because he was merely conservative or had a big personality.
- He was murdered because he was winning the hearts of youth with the good news of the gospel.

Key Emphasis

This makes him one of the first, if not the first, public-level figure martyred on American soil as a Christian.

Clarifications given

- Lincoln may have been a Christian, but he was murdered over politics, not expressly for witness to Jesus.
- Jim Elliot was a martyr, but not on American public soil.
- Other Christians have been martyred.
- This one touches home because it is an American public figure murdered specifically for his Christian worldview.

The witness of Charlie's own words

What he said about conversation

- He went around universities to have challenging conversations.
- It is important to find disagreements respectfully.
- When people stop talking, that is when violence happens.
- When people stop talking, that is when civil war happens.
- Then people start to think the other side is so evil they lose their humanity.

Illustration



A man with a chair and a tent and a crappy microphone built a global movement.

Key Emphasis:

Nothing short of the work of the Spirit of God.

The testimony of his legacy

What happened after his death

- No American cities burned.
- Instead there were prayer vigils and worship services.
- People prayed for his killer.
- People prayed for renewal.

Big Idea

That is the testimony of Charlie's legacy.

Contrast / Analogy:

Riots are hell's counterfeit to God's revival.

- Hell bursts forth in riots and burning.
- Heaven floods the nation in prayer, worship, and hope.

The global response

Supporting examples

- Massive crowds chanting his name
- London crowds
- South Korea crowds



- The vice president carrying his casket home
- New York Yankees with a moment of silence
- Blue Angels practicing missing man formation
- Chicago Cubs honoring him
- Polish Parliament holding a moment of silence
- The president publicly announcing the killer's apprehension
- Erica Kirk's address becoming one of the most viewed events of the generation

Key emphasis on Erica Kirk

- Her poise
- Her leadership
- "The cries of this widow will echo around the world as a battle cry."
- "I will make it my mission that the world will never forget the name of my husband and the mission he worked for."

What do we do next?

How Christians respond to persecution and injustice

Big Idea

Christians respond in three ways:

1. We pray
2. We forgive
3. We act



Christians pray

Big Idea

We go to God.

What prayer does

- It rejects hopelessness that would lead to despair.
- If you do not have Jesus, you have no reason for hope after events like this.
- If you have Jesus, the pain is real.
- Christianity is not denial.
- Christianity frees us to feel deeply the pain of earth without being buried by it.

Biblical support

- The Psalms
- “Why do the wicked prosper?”
- “Why have these things happened to me?”
- “Where are you?”
- “Have you forgotten me?”

Key Emphasis:

In talking to God and getting into the presence of God, hopelessness and despair are healed.

Scripture references

- **Matthew 5:44** — “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
- **Luke 6:27** — “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.”



Application

- Pray that God would save the soul of the man who murdered Charlie Kirk.
- Pray that the state and government would bring righteous earthly justice.

Key Emphasis:

The Christian worldview is sophisticated enough to hold both.

- Pray for salvation.
- Pray for justice.

Illustration

Ted Bundy and James Dobson:

- A claim of conversion
- A desire not to escape justice
- An acknowledgment that judgment was deserved
- Yet hope in God's forgiveness

Key Emphasis:

You can pray for people you hate until hate begins to leave your heart.

Christians forgive

Big Idea

We go to our brothers.

What forgiveness does

- It purges bitterness that would rot the soul.
- If you do not forgive evil, vengeance takes over and rots the soul from the inside out.



Scripture references

- Matthew 6:14–15
- Luke 6:27
- Luke 23:33–34 — “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Supporting argument

- Forgiveness is not works-based righteousness.
- Forgiveness is the natural overflow of a person who has been forgiven.
- If you refuse to forgive, you demonstrate you have not been forgiven.

Key Emphasis

The power to forgive comes from having received forgiveness from God.

- You cannot forgive yourself.
- You did not primarily sin against yourself.
- You sinned against God.
- He is the one who can issue the forgiveness you need.
- Once received, you gain supernatural power to forgive others.

Big Idea

You will never be required to forgive anyone more than God has already forgiven you.

18. Christians act

Big Idea

We go to work.



What action does

- It conquers fear that would paralyze you and turn you into a coward.

Supporting argument

- The church showed up.
- Gathering is an act of denouncing fear.
- Pastors are wrestling with real fear about becoming targets.
- God is calling his people to overcome that fear.

Key Emphasis

How do you overcome fear?

You go to work.

- If you sit in the house, scroll the algorithms, get in your head, wonder if you are next, and you will be paralyzed

Analogy

- One assassin's bullet can **paralyze** an entire army.
OR
- One assassin's bullet can **mobilize** an entire army to faith-filled, love-fueled action for Jesus.

Scripture reference

- 2 Timothy 1:6–8

Call

The life and death of Charlie is an invitation to the church to take up the work:



- proclaim the gospel boldly
- courageously
- articulately
- with precision
- fearlessly

Questions asked

- Will they twist your words? Yes.
- Will they lie about you? Yes.
- Will they smear you? Yes.
- Will they attempt to kill you? Maybe.
- What is the alternative?
 - living like a coward
 - living in silence
 - cowering to threats

Illustration

Billy Graham quote:

- “They can’t kill me. They can only change my address.”

Resolve to live a life that when you are gone, the demons cheer.

If you are unwilling to pay the price of your life, you can be bought.



19. Confidence in God's sovereignty

Big Idea

Christians are bulletproof until Jesus is done with them.

- Charlie was bulletproof until Jesus was done with him.
- Do not think God had plans and the enemy ruined them.
- God is not scrambling for plan B.
- God used Charlie in 31 years in ways most people will not accomplish in 300.
- Then God brought him home and let the church pick up the baton.

Illustration:

"Good job. Well done, good and faithful son... I'll let the rest of my church pick up the baton."

20. The vengeance the church seeks

Big Idea

The vengeance the church seeks is revival.

Key emphasis

This helps explain why the psalmist could say:

- **Psalm reference alluded to:** "Precious in the eyes of God are the death of his saints."

21. Final twofold call

1. To the Saved: *believe in advance*

- We are not of those who shrink back in fear.
- We believe.



- We are saved.
- We advance.

Prayer for acceleration

- God, accelerate it in these days in ways we could not have imagined.
- Do more in a moment than we could do in 100 years of effort.

Revival language

- The rumblings of revival may be brewing under the surface across the nation.
- The question is who has the will to seize it.
- We do not force revival.
- We uncover it, discover it, and participate with it.

2. To the Lost: *be saved*

Charlie's own words used as the call

Pastoral call

- This is your moment.
- God orchestrated the events of this week to bring you here.
- Charlie's life was not wasted.
- Many have already given their life to Jesus.
- That could be your morning.



Explanation of salvation

- Repent of your sins.
- Place your faith in Jesus.
- Give him your destiny and future.
- He gives grace and mercy.

Invitation

Be born again and be made new.

23. Final evidences of Charlie's heart

Texts he sent

- **1 Corinthians reference:** "A wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."
- **Psalm 46:1** — "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
- **Matthew 5:9** — "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Key emphasis

He was accused of being a man who made war on humanity, when in reality he was making war on darkness trying to consume humanity.

Scripture References

- Matthew 5:44
- Luke 6:27



- Matthew 6:14–15
- Luke 23:33–34
- 2 Timothy 1:6–8
- Psalm 46:1
- Matthew 5:9
- 1 Corinthians 16:9 likely alluded to (“a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries”)

Preacher Summary

Big Idea

This moment must be interpreted biblically, and Christians must respond not with despair, bitterness, or cowardice, but with **prayer, forgiveness, and action**.

Main Flow

1. **Why this moment is a big deal**
 - tragic
 - historic
 - evil
 - failed attempt to silence gospel witness
2. **How to interpret the moment**
 - historically
 - sociologically



- politically
- spiritually
- biblically

3. How Christians respond

- **pray** — go to God
- **forgive** — purge bitterness
- **act** — conquer fear

4. Twofold call

- to believers: **believe in advance**
- to unbelievers: **be saved**

Closing

- Hell touched earth, but heaven answered.
- The attempt to silence one voice will multiply many voices.
- The vengeance the church seeks is revival.
- You are bulletproof until Jesus is done with you.
- The question is not whether this is a turning point.
- The question is whether the church will step into it.

