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2 Silver Birds

- In August of 2006, Comair flight 5191 took off from the wrong runway at the Lexington Bluegrass Airport.
- Forty-nine people lost their lives.
- Last month at the Arboretum in Lexington a memorial was dedicated for the building of a tribute to these individuals.
- This memorial when completed will feature a 17 foot sculpture representing 49 silver birds sweeping into the sky.

3 Wrong Runway

- On the morning of August 27, 2006, Lexington Ground cleared Comair 5191 to taxi to runway 22.
- Instead, the pilots taxied to runway 26 and received from Lexington Tower permission to takeoff.
- Runway 26 was too short and Comair 5191 wasn't able to gain enough speed for takeoff.
- Clipping the airport's perimeter fence and then striking a barn, Comair 5191 broke apart and burst into flames—killing several of our neighbors and friends.

4 What Went Wrong?

5 Sterile Cockpit

- The Sterile Cockpit Rule is an FAA regulation requiring pilots to refrain from non-essential activities during critical phases of flight.
- The FAA imposed the rule in 1981 after reviewing a series of accidents that were caused by flight crews who were distracted from their flying duties by engaging in non-essential conversations and activities during critical parts of the flight.

6 Sterile Cockpit

- One such notable accident was Eastern Air Lines Flight 212, which crashed just short of the runway at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in 1974 while conducting an instrument approach in dense fog.
- The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) concluded that a probable cause of the accident was distraction due to idle chatter among the flight crew during the approach phase of the flight

7 Chit-Chat

- On October 21st, 2009, two distracted Northwest Airline pilots fly pass their destination by hundreds of miles because they were distracted by chit-chat.
- On February 12th, 2009, a Colgan Air, as Continental Connection stalled and crashed at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport as the pilots were distracted by chit-chat failed to notice their low airspeed.

- On August 27th, 2006, a Comair, Delta Connection aircraft departed from the wrong runway at the Lexington Bluegrass airport because the pilots were distracted by casual conversation and chit-chat.

8 Distractions

- Distractions are one of the leading causes of all road accidents.
- Laws are being passed in several state governments to reduce this problem.
- But people seem to want to ignore these laws and the practice of common sense so that they can multitask.
- However, distractions keep us from focusing on what we're suppose to be doing and thus endangering not only our life, but the lives of others as well.

9 Spiritual Distraction

- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV)
- Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. (2 Timothy 2:16 NIV)
- A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions. (Proverbs 18:2 NIV)

10 Being Focused

- The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful (Matthew 13:22 NIV)
- “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. (Matthew 23:23-24 NIV)

11 Ways God Speaks to Us

- God speaks to us through various ways.
 - He can speak to us through creation. (Rom 1:20)
 - He can speak to us through circumstances.
 - He can speak to us through a gentle whisper. (1 Kings 19:12)
 - He can speak to us through dreams, visions, and prophetic words.
 - However, the primary way he speaks to us is through His “Sure” Word—the Bible.
 - QUESTION: Do we ever get distracted by the subjective ways God speaks to us where we fail to understand the more concrete things God has for us?

12 Extraordinary Times

- Today we may very well be living in extraordinary times.
- Our faith may need all the attention that we can give to it, so that it will be strong and be able to handle whatever is to come down the road.
- What is happening in sports, or on American Idol, or even on the Elijah List could all distract us from walking in the truth and growing in God's grace.

13 Distractions

- The key point of tonight's sermon is that distractions are deadly.
- Not praying regularly, reading our Bibles, or being about the Lord's business, could very well be a sign that distractions are a problem in our lives.
- However those who persevere and put aside the meaningless chatter around us—listening for God's voice will no doubt find much grace.

14 The Promise

- But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." (Matthew 13:23 NIV)
- In order for us to hear we are going to have to listen.
- We live in a dangerous world, let us not be distracted with the chit-chat of this world.

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