

Begin With The End In Mind

Luke 17:20-37

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 2, 2023

Luke 17:20-37 “Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed,²¹ nor will they say, “Look, here it is!” or “There!” for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.’²² And He said to the disciples, ‘The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.²³ And they will say to you, “Look, there!” or “Look, here!” Do not go out or follow them.²⁴ For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in His day.²⁵ But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.²⁶ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.²⁷ They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.²⁸ Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,²⁹ but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—³⁰ so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.³¹ On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back.³² Remember Lot’s wife.³³ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left.³⁵ There will be two women grinding grain together. One will be taken and the other left.’³⁷ And they said to Him, ‘Where, Lord?’ He said to them, ‘Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. You can know a lot about the second coming of Christ!

7 Important Aspects of Christ’s Return

1. Christians will want it. (Luke 17:22)
2. Everyone will see it. (Luke 17:23-24)
3. Rejection will delay it. (Luke 17:25)
4. You won’t see it coming. (Luke 17:26-30)
5. It will be telling. (Luke 17:31-33)
6. It will be divisive. (Luke 17:34-36)
7. It will be fatal and final. (Luke 17:37)

II. **You're not ready for Christ's second coming if you don't rightly understand His first coming!**

Luke 17:20-21 "Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, "Look, here it is?" or "There!" for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

A. **You can't see or understand the kingdom of God unless you have been born again.**

John 3:3 "Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

B. **You can't see or understand the kingdom of God unless you recognize the King Himself.**

1 Corinthians 2:14 "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to Him, and He is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

III. **Nothing prepares us to enter the Kingdom of God other than the Gospel!**

Acts 1:3 "He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and **speaking about the kingdom of God.**"

Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip as **he preached good news about the kingdom of God** and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Acts 14:21-22 "**When they had preached the gospel** to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that **through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**"

Acts 19:8 "And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, **reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.**"

Acts 28:23 "When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, **testifying to the kingdom of God** and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets."

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Review the 7 things Jesus tells us about His second coming. Which of those encourage you? Which of them concern you? Why?
2. Luke 17:22 says we will "...desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man." When do you find yourself longing for Christ's return?
3. Why can't we understand the Kingdom of God without acknowledging King Jesus?
4. Are you ready for Jesus to return? Why or why not?
5. Read the important question in 2 Peter 3:11. With that in mind, and knowing how the early church prepared themselves and others for the kingdom of God, how should you be living now in preparation for the second coming of Christ?