

Luke

See Jesus

What to Do Until He Returns

Luke 21:25-36

(Synoptic passages: Matt. 24:29-51; Mark 13:24-37)
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 19, 2023

I. Get Excited in the Midst of Chaos

Luke 21:25-26 “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

The word “distress” is a Greek word that means a deep-seated anguish that is debilitating and overwhelming with a sense of terror and anxiousness that can find no relief.

The word “perplexity” is a Greek word that means confusion in its most severe form. The word has a sense of insanity and madness from not being able to control or stop the chaos.

When you have eternal life, you know who’s in control and you have a hopeful sense that God is about to do what He’s promised to do—make all things new!

Luke 21:28 “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

In other words, sit up, get up, and get ready to receive the fullness of everything that God has promised to us as believers.

II. Get Serious in the Midst of Distractions

Luke 21:34 “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.”

NLT “...don’t let your hearts be dulled...”

The Greek word for “dulled” is a word that means drowsiness or sluggishness.

A. Do Whatever You Can to Keep Thinking Clearly

Don’t be doing something that takes the edge off of your mental sharpness and dulls your heart’s awareness of what’s really going on around you and what really matters most.

God is not against pleasure, but He is against any pleasure that begins to rule us and becomes a false refuge that dulls us in our senses and keeps us from thinking and feeling sharply.

See 1 Peter 1:13-19

B. Do Whatever You Can to Keep Traveling Light

Luke 21:34 "...lest your hearts be weighed down with...cares of this life..."

The Greek word for "cares" right there is a word that means to have a divided mind or to be distracted and pulled in different directions.

You might not be living with a dulled mind, but you're so distracted by so many things that the result is the same – "that day will come upon you suddenly like a trap."

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith..."

III. Get Ready for the Day of Judgment

Luke 21:35 "For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth."

No one will miss this divine appointment that's coming with your Creator God!

Romans 14:10-12 "...For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."

You might spend your entire life ignoring God, avoiding God, running from God, or even denying there is a God, but you will end your life standing before Him all by yourself!

See 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-13

Luke 21:36 "But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

This verse is talking about escaping the wrath of God and standing before the Son of God because you made the decision to receive Him as your Savior instead of facing Him as your Judge.

No other religion does for you what you could never do for yourself. No other religion has a God who takes on flesh so that He could live, die, and rise again for us!