



## The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 86 “Preparing for the Inevitable” By Pastor Jody May

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### Luke 17:20-37 ESV

#### The Coming of the Kingdom

<sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And they will say to you, ‘Look, there!’ or ‘Look, here!’ Do not go out or follow them. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. <sup>26</sup> Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, <sup>29</sup> but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— <sup>30</sup> so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Remember Lot’s wife. <sup>33</sup> Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. <sup>34</sup> I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. <sup>35</sup> There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left.” <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

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Objective: **To prepare one’s soul and watch for your neighbor’s as well FOR the second coming IS happening.**

“Our new Constitution is now established and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except **death and taxes.**” – Benjamin Franklin 1789.



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If that is the way you believe, then how you live will show that truth to be evident in your life. If you believe that death is inescapable, then you may become the type of person that throws caution to the wind, or perhaps you become a hypochondriac, or maybe you develop phobias easily or you fall into anxiety or depression too easily *because* in reality you have come to understand you can't escape death. On the other side of that coin if you know taxes are unavoidable you could become a hoarder, or you are always late reporting your income or you develop a deep distrust for the government, because in the end you know they will get theirs.

As Christians we can't escape these facts, for Benjamin Franklin (deist), was right in this. But as a Christian we **don't have to live under the weight** of those things as inevitable as they are.

- First, death has lost its' permanent sting (Paul 1 Cor. 15) we don't fear it like the rest of the world through the power of Jesus we have eternal life, and one day that eternal spirit will get an eternal body.
- Secondly, taxes don't take a thing from us because all we have belongs to God. Taxes go back into the Power structures that God orchestrated and that God ordained to do His will. Taxes go back into God's hands to do what God wants.

So yes, there are inevitable things that will happen to us but we, by the power of God's gospel, no longer have to fear them, but there is **one more inevitable thing** that will happen, that cannot be avoided, and should be believed with all your heart!

### **Revelation 1:7 ESV**

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

### **2 Peter 3:10 ESV**

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.



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### Matthew 24:36 & 44 ESV

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.... Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**Bottom line, our Lord is returning, everyone will see Him, people will cry out in fear of Him, Judgment will concur against the wicked, and only the Father knows when, so be ready! – To you and me that is Inevitable...**

In our text today Jesus is relating to two groups of people the *unaware Pharisees* and the *not ready Disciples*. He gives **3 different warnings about how people can view the Inevitable fact of the second coming**. Our task today is to heed the warnings and refocus ourselves on what we should be thinking about which will help us all live-in light of this inevitable fact, **that Jesus will return and upon His return, the time for repentance is over.**

### 1. Preparing for the Inevitable means understanding where God’s Kingdom resides (20-21).

<sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

The Pharisees ask Jesus about the coming of the Kingdom and the unspoken intent is so that they can anticipate their rewards. It’s funny, they are asking Jesus when they hate hearing Him teach on anything. What’s even more ironic, the King was standing right in front of them, He had brought the Kingdom to earth, His reign had begun, and they couldn’t see it before their own eyes!

One of the things that had gotten the Pharisees off track was that they had become accustomed to believing the Messiah would come for a political takeover and the Pharisees believed they would be the first ones He would seek to help rule over the world. **They were looking for their reward instead of looking how to serve better.**



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For us today there is a warning here as well for those of us that think we have it all worked out. There is something to be said of the fact that numerous reformed theologians can agree about the 5 Solas, perhaps not baptism, but they can't agree in their Eschatology; the end times. Therefore, it is prudent when acting out of a self-confirmed Eschatology because that will effect how you live out the Gospel.

I have seen too many Baptists in my day, that grew up Dispensationalists, that have withdrawn from society, letting the heart of Evangelism grow dormant, because their view became, “What's the point?” The world is to get worse, I won't be here, they won't listen, the church is in decline so withdraw. Yet, **that's sin isn't it? Not to share the Gospel with a dying world, not to declare the Glory of God in the Gospel, not to live out a new life given by the Gospel and as we are learning in 1 Peter to suffer well by the world's hands so they may come to know the Gospel.** The fuel of the Gospel is blood, sweat and tears of which Jesus gave the most and disciples are expected to model that, because we get to...

Here's the one thing I will tell you about Eschatology, there are three views that reformed Christians entertain, Premillennialism, Amillennialism and Postmillennialism.

- Premillennialism – there is still to come a great tribulation then the second coming then the millennium then the last judgment. (Albert Mohler, John Piper, Francis Schaeffer, & D.A. Carson). Mostly Baptists
- Amillennialism – sees the current age of the church as the metaphoric 1000 year reign and afterwards is the second coming when the last judgment will take place. (Sam Storms, and most the PCA). Mostly Presbyterians
- Postmillennialism – the millennium is still to come but the church will first gain dominance over the earth through the Gospel and at the end there will be a judgment. (Doug Wilson, Charles Spurgeon) Goes either way...

All three believe **it will get worse**, at least in America, **before it gets better** but if we spend too much time debating over it we will miss the important things to do, like working on inviting others to join us **because the Kingdom is residing right now with us**. I know one thing that all views have in common:



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### **Matthew 24:14 ESV**

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

**The end doesn't come UNTIL all the People Groups of the world hear the Gospel of Jesus.** Whether you think the Millennium is happening now or later whether it happens before He returns or after, the important thing to remember is that the Kingdom has come, we are to be attentive to the needs of it, we agree to proclaim it, be contributing members of it, and keep watching for the return of Jesus, so going forward let's be a little more concerned with our evangelistic activity to get that word out if our shows the desire for His return.

### **2. Preparing for the Inevitable means don't get caught looking up (22-25).**

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And they will say to you, ‘Look, there!’ or ‘Look, here!’ Do not go out or follow them. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

So, we are getting now into the topic of the second coming. There will be days’ “*you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man.*” While Jesus was with us on earth there was peace for His followers for, He took on all attacks. Now that He is not with us in body, we are the ones to stand in the gap. I think we all could say I wish Jesus was with us...

In the church's history there have been some who have spent too much time staring up in the sky for the return of Christ, pleading for His return. Because people can become overwhelmed with how the world is, its' ugliness, its' scariness, and we forget:

### **1 Peter 3:21-22 ESV**



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<sup>21</sup> ... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. – He’s in charge!

**When you are looking up too much you tend to lose track what’s going on right underneath your nose (middle school gym class).** False teachers know when your attention is on something else (they are opportunists) of those that are wishfully thinking about Jesus’ return. They watch what you are watching, they look at what your interests are, and they develop false gospels to draw people away from clear biblical teaching (2 Timothy 4:3) because they know people scare easily.

That’s one of the issues currently taking place in the church as we speak. People that I know are trying to teach that if Jesus was alive then He would be busy about affecting political change, but Jesus never did that directly.

When people’s hearts are plagued with notions of powerlessness and fear over a Pandemic they begin to ask, “What do we do?” “How do we serve”, “Where can we go so I can ‘feel’ like a Christian?”

There were some opportunists that picked up on what some churches were looking at and provided an outlet emotionally/physically to move and get their minds off of COVID. They organized marches with organizations that are completely ungodly (BLM/Antifa) and did it under the strategies of Cultural Marxism, using tools that disrupt society not to make peace. Many of those in the church were caught up in political games not knowing that the pressure applied to them came from people yelling “Here’s Christ He’s over here, come join us!”

You see there is a new Phariseeism being born. It is being proclaimed by pastors and community leaders that in order to be a Christian now you have to be like us, be active politically like us, vote like us, repent to us, believe like us, and put yourselves under our influence because you don’t understand the world like us, you’re not “woke”.. **Let me remind us all of something, Jesus freed us from works of law once and for all and once was good enough.**



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### Romans 7:6 ESV

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

By His blood He broke the bonds of law living so don't go back to another one, it won't save you.

We are called to be like Habakkuk, stay at your post, preach the Gospel, love your neighbor, rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. You see we aren't to go chasing false Messiah's or get caught up in political upheaval our task is to bring people to the real Messiah, **for we do know the inevitable is going to happen, He will return and everyone will know it, and no one will miss it.**

**We don't chase a false Messiah, or a man-made message said to come from Him, but we bring people to the real one!**

- Perhaps we need to spend more time improving our evangelistic skills instead of being told by Pharisees what to say.
- Perhaps we need to spend more time sharpening our apologetics and start speaking into culture for ourselves.
- Perhaps we need to start exposing false gospels instead of letting people run into them.

Preparing for the Inevitable means we stop chasing false gospel messages and learn and share the one that has already been given us.

### **3. Preparing for the Inevitable means don't get caught up in worldly preoccupations (26-37).**

<sup>26</sup> Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

<sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, <sup>29</sup> but on the day when Lot went out from





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Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— <sup>30</sup> so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Remember Lot’s wife. <sup>33</sup> Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

All of this to say, on the inevitable return of Christ (*the days of the Son of Man*), it will be like the days of Noah and the days of Sodom and Gamorah (v32). It means extreme wickedness will be taking place; abortion is a globally accepted practice, biological predeterminations by the divine mean nothing, man is his own God, wickedness is everywhere, and vestiges of Christian morality are being attacked. **The picture is this, evil doesn’t bother anyone anymore.** People are just eating and drinking like everything is fine. In America we have been “*shushed*” so many times that now that when we don’t “*shush*” attacks on the church are ramping up.

Family, here’s what this means, we have got to **recommit not to be shushed**, and **not to accept the common behavior as man’s righteous behavior**. We are still to hold to a view that says scripture determines what is right and wrong and man’s opinions are worthless and when they don’t line up with God’s will - those opinions send you to **Hell**.

<sup>34</sup> I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. <sup>35</sup> There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left.” <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

That is a picture of when judgment comes that **while we may coexist we will not be co punished**. And if you want to find out what has happened to these people look to where the vultures are flying. We’re not helping anybody right now by not sharing with them the full gospel. Well how do we do that?

- Be careful not to spend too much time accumulating and miss what is escalating.
- Be careful not to spend too much time enjoying and miss what is unfolding.





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- Be careful not to spend time numbing our spiritual senses instead of experiencing spiritual awakenings.
- Be careful not to just spend time with people but invest your time with people for you know there is a limit to that time.

People need to hear the truth, we have family that needs to hear the truth, we need to keep hearing the truth. The Lord is good and gracious to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness but that can't happen when people are spared hearing about what is the full weight of sin, we need to keep pointing to the cross.

The days of the Son of Man will come again, it is inevitable, and it is not good for those that don't know Him. Let us strive to keep inviting a lost world before it's too late.

### **PRAYER**

### **COMMUNION**

### **BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, that has appointed the day for His Son's return of which this is inevitable.

Go in the name of the Son, that offers grace now but upon His return will bring justice.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that promises to do the convincing of the Gospel if we do our part in sharing it.