

Developing A Life of Prayer

EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH

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“Anxiety about the Future”

*Lu 17:20-37 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees **when the kingdom of God would come**, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. "And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. "For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. "Remember Lot's wife. "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. "I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. "Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."*

*And they answered and said to Him, "**Where, Lord?**" So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."*

*Lu 18:1-8 Then He spoke a parable to them, **that men always ought to pray and not lose heart**, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. "And shall God not avenge His own **elect who cry out day and night to Him**, though He bears long with them? "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

I. Inquiry on the Future Kingdom – vs 20a

A. What they expected

1. Encompasses everything in
 - a. the Abrahamic covenant

- b. the Davidic covenant
- c. New covenant
- d. But was embellished in the extra-biblical writings
- 2. Emil Schurer's summarization of the expectations
 - a. 1st - a time of tribulation
 - b. 2nd – an Elijah like prophet would appear and herald the coming of the Messiah
 - c. 3rd – Messiah establishes his kingdom and vindicates his people
 - d. 4th – the nations would come to fight against messiah
 - e. 5th – Messiah would destroy those nations
 - f. 6th – Jerusalem would be restored and made glorious
 - g. 7th – the scattered Jews would return to Israel
 - h. 8th – Israel becomes the center of the world and all nations are subject to Messiah
 - i. 9th – Messiah establishes his kingdom, a time of eternal peace, righteousness, and glory
- 3. They were anticipating one a physical kingdom, not a spiritual one, b/c they already considered themselves righteous b/c they were God's chosen people
- B. Since they didn't understand the spiritual aspect of the kingdom and that encompassed the majority of His preaching
- II. Instruction Concerning the Kingdom – vs 17:20b-37
 - A. To the Pharisees – vs 20b-21
 - 1. How the Kingdom will not Come
 - a. No observable signs -
 - b. nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there'
 - 2. How the Kingdom will Come
 - a. In is internal - For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.
 - b. Requires the new birth - Jo 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
 - c. 1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
 - B. To the Disciples – vs 22-37
 - 1. The necessity of the second coming
 - a. The promise of God demands it – more than 300 prophecies in OT, only 1/3 fulfilled in the first coming
 - b. The teaching of Jesus – spoke of His return – vs 30; 12:40; 18:8; 21:27; Mt 16:27-28; 24:27,30,37,39,44; 25:31; Rev 3:11
 - c. The revelation of the Holy Spirit – prophecies of the NT
 - d. God's plan for the church -Jo 14:3; 1 Th 4:14-17; 1 Co 15:51-52
 - e. The future of Israel - Zec 12:10; 13:1; 14:4-9
 - f. The corruption of the world needing to be fixed – 2 Th 1:7-9
 - g. The exaltation of Jesus Christ – Mt 24:29-31; 25:31-32
 - h. The destruction of Satan – Ge 3:115; Rev 20:1-3, 7-10
 - i. The hope of the church - 1 Th 1:10; Tit 2:13

2. Jesus' Coming will be

a. Desired by Believers – vs 22

- i. Son of Man is a messianic term connected with the coming of Messiah to establish His kingdom - Dan 7:13-14
- ii. *epithumeo* - set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise):--covet, desire, would fain, lust (after).
- iii. and you will not see it

b. Visible Globally – vs 23-24

- i. Warning of false teachers taking advantage of people's desire for the return - 'Look here!' or 'Look there!'
- ii. His return will be obvious to all - For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven

c. Delayed by Rejection – vs 25

- i. But first He must suffer many things – both from Israel and God
- ii. be rejected by this generation – His substitutionary sacrifice

d. Unexpected in its timing – vs 26-30

- i. Days refers to a sequence of events involved in Christ's return
- ii. Immediately preceding His return, life will be like two other times when God judged
 - the days of Noah and the days of Lot – vs 26,28-29
 - marked by indifference – vs 27-28
 - until the day Noah went into the Ark, Lot left Sodom
- iii. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed

e. Revealed in Nature – vs 31-33

- i. When it happens, don't try and salvage things,
 - let him not come down to take them away
 - let him not turn back
- ii. Remember Lot's wife
- iii. whoever loses his life will preserve it.

f. Divisive in its effect – vs 34-36

- i. One taken,
 - Not the rapture
 - Taken away in judgment – Mt 24:37-41
- ii. one left – the true believers

g. Permanent in its fatality – vs 37

- i. "Where, Lord?"
- ii. wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

III. Persistent Prayer about the Lord's Return – Lk 18:1-8

A. The Intention – vs 1

1. that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,
 - a. not talking about praying without ceasing – Eph 6:18; 1 Th 5:17
 - b. context is the return of the Lord

- i. long interval between 1st and 2nd comings - 2 Pe 3:8
 - ii. praying about His return – Lk 11:2; Mt 6:10; Rev 6:9-10
2. the remembering His return in prayer gives hope so that one doesn't lose heart – give up, become weary, lose courage, quit

B. The Illustration – vs 2-5

- 1. Another familiar story reflecting what people knew
 - a. There was in a certain city - fictitious
 - b. a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. – regard, didn't care what men thought of him
 - c. a widow seeking justice from her adversary.' – legal protection
- 2. Persistence wins over
 - a. "And he would not for a while;
 - b. but afterward he said within himself,
 - i. 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,
 - ii. 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her,
 - iii. lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"
 - *hupopiazō* - to hit under the eye (buffet or disable an antagonist as a pugilist), to tease or annoy (into compliance), subdue (one's passions):-- keep under, weary.
 - *ekdikeō* - to vindicate, retaliate, punish, a (re-)venge.

C. The Interpretation – vs 6-8a

- a. Then the Lord said
- b. Contrasts in the story
 - i. the unjust judge with God
 - And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?
 - I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.
 - ii. The widow with the elect

D. The Resulting Question – vs 8b

- 1. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"
- 2. Praying “thy Kingdom Come” indicates
 - a. Faith in what we have been told to do
 - b. Looking for His return which has its own reward - 2Ti 4:8