

# *Are You Overcharged?*

Sunday, February 11, 2024

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**Luke 21:25-36** And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

- I. These last verses (34-36) have not been fully understood until now.
  - A. Through the centuries they have been interpreted simply to mean worldly, carnal indulgence, and the mind-dulling and evil results that kind of living naturally brings.
  - B. But now as we are drawing close to his coming we should be able to clearly see what Jesus was warning about when He said to take heed to ourselves lest our hearts be overcharged.
  - C. The pace of life and everything in the world has picked up a hundred times faster or more in every area of life, and it keeps on increasing.
    1. Everything we do, we do it much faster.
    2. Everywhere we go, we go much faster.
  - D. The increase of knowledge, (Continual flow of news and information – and unlimited access to all information about everything,)
  - E. The increase of everyone's view and comprehension of the world has become broad enough to include the whole world. (Internet, social media, satellites, maps, etc.)
    1. It has given people a sense of omniscience, and we are not constituted for that.
  - F. Overcharged means to be burdened, to be made heavy, to crowd too much.
    1. So an overcharged heart is one that is overloaded with emotion and things to think about.
    2. Social media has multiplied this exponentially.
  - G. Surfeiting is excessive eating and drinking; oppressing your system by filling it to disgust; just can't get enough.
    1. Most people eat out now, and many do not even keep food in their house.
    2. This is referring to all that we take in, not just food and drink.
    3. It includes the overload of knowledge and drama that we indulge ourselves in. (news and entertainment)
  - H. Drunkenness according to Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

**DRUNKENNESS, Intoxication; inebriation; a state in which a person is overwhelmed or overpowered with spirituous liquors, so that his reason is disordered, and he reels or staggers in walking. Drunkenness renders some persons stupid, others gay, others sullen, others furious.**

1. Jesus is not referring exclusively to drunkenness with liquor here, but with all the pace of life, the busy-ness, the overwhelming torrent of knowledge that we are continually being exposed to.
  2. All this has the same effect on our minds and hearts as liquor does.
  - I. So it should be very clear to anyone who is paying attention that we are living in perilous times and the hearts of men are failing them because of all these things that coming on the earth.
  - J. Have you noticed how people are so disconnected from what is happening around them?
  - K. Have you noticed how hard it is to concentrate, and to remember things?
  - L. Have you noticed how hard it is to keep business dealings in order?
    1. There seems to always be something all fouled up and it is a nightmare to get it straightened out.
    2. Have you noticed that you usually have to make more than one attempt at getting a mess straightened out, because they tell you it is fixed and it isn't?
  - M. Have you noticed that people's word means nothing anymore?
    1. They will tell you they will do something or be somewhere at a certain time, and they almost never do what they say.
  - N. All these things are because of overcharged hearts and minds.
    1. Their hearts are overcharged because of surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of life.
- II. This is the snare that Jesus said would come upon the whole earth in the last days before his coming.
- A. Most of us have read the little book "Henry and the Great Society."
    1. That little book depicted very well what Jesus was talking about.
    2. The man who wrote that book saw this over 40 years ago.
  - B. We all see it, and I am warning about it today, but it seems that we are caught in a snare and cannot escape it, just like poor Henry, in the book.
  - C. We are in this world, and we are living in this time, and we cannot go hide in a cave, or manage our lives without being involved in it.
    1. We may separate ourselves to some extent and try to control all this avalanche that is continually pouring upon us, but we cannot stop it all.
  - D. Jesus gave the stern warning to "take heed to yourselves."
    1. The Proverbs tell us to "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23
    2. Peter tells us:  
**1 Peter 1:13-16 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: <sup>15</sup>But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup>Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**
  - E. It is possible for a child of God to keep his mind and his heart pure, even in these last days with this snare dropping over the entire world.
  - F. It is possible to keep yourself from being overloaded and drunk with the cares of life and all that is going on around you.
  - G. It is possible to escape all these things. (v. 36)

- H. “Take heed to yourselves” means to hold your mind, to be aware, to pay attention, to be cautious about, to apply oneself to.
1. You have to realize that this is a real danger to your soul and to the souls of your children, and others.
  2. You have to realize that it is affecting you and it is robbing you of peace, and blessings, and fellowship and knowledge of God.
  3. Then you have to do something about it.

III. What can we do to escape this snare?

A. Jesus said to “watch and pray always.”

B. Peter gave us some clear instructions:

1. He said to gird up the loins of your mind.
  - a) Means to bind up, to surround with something such as cloth, to surround, to enclose, to encircle, to encompass.
  - b) Do NOT leave your mind OPEN to receive whatever is thrown at it.
  - c) CONTROL what enters your mind!
  - d) KEEP a watch and prevent things from entering your mind.
  - e) “Loins” means “protective power.”
2. He said to be holy in all manner of conversation.
  - a) Be discerning about what you look at, hear, talk about, identify with, and involve yourself in.
  - b) Always ask the question: Are these things are holy, or are they profane?
3. He also said to not fashion yourself according to the former lusts in your ignorance.
  - a) Do not let your desires control your life.
4. He said to “BE SOBER.”
  - a) On purpose, be serious about life and about yourself and others.
  - b) Do NOT be foolish and looking at everything as a joke or as something light and frivolous.

C. THINK! THINK! THINK!

1. Don’t be a numbskull!
2. Don’t be dull and stupid!
3. Don’t allow your mind to simply drift around where it may!
4. THINK about things that will edify and help you and keep you from being caught up in all this surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of life.

Philippians 4:4-8 Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

D. If we want to survive we better take heed to ourselves, and we better do it now.

1. Do not think that because you think you are saved that you cannot be taken with the rest of this world in this snare Jesus spoke about and your end will be different than theirs.
2. The true children of God are those who will be counted worthy to escape all these things.
3. Will you escape, or are you going to continue being swept along with the flood?