

08-26-07; Today's Jesus #131

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:29-44; Mar 13:24-33; Luk 21:25-38

Preface

Scripture Reading: Mat 24:29-44

1. The Essence of this Scripture Passage

1) you will know that day is coming <32-35>=learning from the fig tree=the spiritual man is able to make judgment about the age.

- we know by the changes of our time: at the end of the age, Israelites will repent; the progress of the worldwide gospel movement

- we know seeing the darkness of the age: the perversion and wickedness of the age; breaking out of wars, famines, earthquakes and all kinds of calamities

- we know by the blessings of many people of God: witnessing everywhere the mourning, repentance, regeneration, calling together and rising up of "the 8 kinds of blessed people (people of God)"

- we rejoice at the coming of the kingdom at any time: we triumph by the coming, indwelling, moving, empowering, and the fruits of the H.S.

2) You cannot know that day and hour <36-39>=do not just wait for that day but strive today to prepare for the eternal kingdom

- without today, there'll be no eternity; without this life, there'll be no life thereafter; without finishing up what should be done today, there'll no new things of tomorrow.

- The day of the flood would not come at any hour: it'd come according to the schedule within which for Noah to finish building the Ark, preparing the food, and gathering together all the animals"

- The end of the age will not come at any hour: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

- Our end will not come at any hour but at the completion of what God wants to complete.

3) One will be taken and the other left <40-41>=there are two groups of people and we should be able to tell "who are among the blessed".

- We will know today who "will be taken" and who "will be left".

- One group are the chosen people of God (who are born again and seek the Lord, eternity and kingdom); the other are those "who are but flesh and dead, follow the king of the world (the evil spirit), and will enter eternal damnation with Satan".

- Those two groups of people live together in this world and do the same things (e.g., marry and are given in marriage, do business, have children, eat, exercise and sleep).

However, at the same time they are completely different in terms of their mindset, purpose and methods. One live for the flesh and the world while the other for “glorifying God, benefiting man and building up the kingdom”.

- The end of the age can come at any time while we go about our everyday business. Therefore, regardless of what we do, we keep watch and test the Lord’s good and perfect will before we do everything.

4) Therefore keep watch<42-44>=what does it mean to “Keep watch” and how do we do it?

←> that doesn’t mean that we only pray everyday without doing anything, that we refrain from sinning and strive to do good, and that we await the coming of the Lord morning and night.

- God is always with us; he wants to lead us, help us and bless us thereby finishing his good plans.

- the forces of darkness are always there to fool us, deceive us, and accuse us thereby causing us to fall in our walk with God.

=>the end result of one who often keeps watch is none other than his joy at testing God’s good will in order to follow; his enjoyment of the Lord’s power and authority; his life of freedom, joy, thanksgiving, praise and hope; and his witnessing of the daily increase of his crowns.

2. “[For in the days before the flood,] people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage... and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.”

\*As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the end of the age and so it is now in the days of everyone at the end of their age of which we witness.

1) Jesus does not mean that eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage per se are not good but that they are not connected to “God, kingdom, eternity and the end of the age”.

(1) The people live for “the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does” <1Jo 2:16>.

(2) All religions run after “begging for blessings, knowledge, laws, mysticism and humanism.”

(3) What they labor lifelong to achieve has nothing to do with their eternal life and inheritance.

2) the end of the age will come and come suddenly... two kinds of attitude toward the end of the age:

(1) Those who were never prepared for the end of the age=>they do not want to think about it or mention it too much for fear of what they are going to face in death; they don’t

know where they are going; they cannot tear themselves away from this world and their loved ones. They pass on to their children “wrong teachings and last will and testament”.

(2) Those who spend their lives getting ready for the end of the age (e.g., Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David and Paul)=>they are awaiting that day to finish the fight, the running, and the striving, to shed bondage of the flesh, to see God face-to-face, to enjoy the rest of the Paradise and to pass on to their later generations their lifelong thanksgiving, the Lord’s deliverance and salvation, his teachings, leading, help and rewards.

# If I have “one month” left on earth, what should I do to prepare for the end of my days? A brother’s testimony...

- Looking at my life today, I will know how it would be at the end of my days-my status, identify, purposes, interests and evidence

3) Do not wait until that day to cope or take an accounting. Rather, we will live the rest of our days here with joy, thanksgiving and hope after examining carefully, testing meticulously, dotting all the dots and crossing all the “Ts”.

- In the Bible, the Lord has revealed his “eternal and complete answer” – his eternal good and perfect will in Christ.
- Therefore, the Lord says not to live as the foolish, the unwise but as the smart and the wise, making the most of every opportunity <Eph 5:15-17>.
- He who is to be taken is the one who believes today in “what God has said to him”, puts together and connects up as well as confirm what he has heard, and is willing to follow...

3. The Lord says, “Keep watch” for that day <42-44>

- How do we keep watch? How do we put together and connect up what we have learned, confirm and follow, thereby enjoying a life of absolute confirmation and hope?

1) Stand firm: “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” <Mat 6:33; 2Co 4:16-18>

=willing to connect all we do on earth to the eternal kingdom

-And this is the national reaction of one who truly believes that he has received in Jesus Christ “his eternal identity, belonging, status and inheritance”.

2) Grasp: the mysteries of “ if I drive out the demons by the spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come up us” <Mat 12:28; Eph 6:10-18>

=Keep open our spiritual eyes and, abiding by the spiritual principles and understanding the leading of the H.S., enjoy the powers already given us with which to drive out all of the accusations, contradictions and bondage from within. We will rest in peace, freedom joy, love, holiness, thanksgiving, praise and hope.

2) Testing and Approving: “what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will” and follow him <Rom 12:1-2; Eph 5:15-21>

=We have to understand first “God’s good will in everything” and thereafter “test and approve” at any time. More importantly, we have to confirm and follow his will, and leave everything up to him for our increased and increasing “more beautiful wisdom”.

3) Learn: how to restore with our neighbors (i.e., family members, body of Christ, relatives, encounters) “the same [one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one Baptism and one Body] and “join up to grow in the love of Christ” (with those who are not the same) <Eph 4:1-16>

= we have not only to keep improving our spiritual life, but more importantly, to “establish good and beautiful relationships and expand our life’s network in God’s love”.

4) Confirm: everyday the Lord increases my “gifts and rewards” <Jam 1:17; Mat 25:21; Act 1:8>

=day by day, we count “God’s blessings, what he has done and what he will do”; we’ll receive blessings upon blessings, joy upon joy, wisdom upon wisdom, and evidence upon evidence. We will enjoy the happiness of walking with the Lord on earth and of entering with eternal crowns into the eternal glory with our Lord.