

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 6

TITLE: SIGNS OF THE TIMES

PART 1

Watching and Waiting

READ MATTHEW 24:36-44

INTRODUCTION

The end times are something that many people are obsessed with in our day. This is not a problem when we understand that we cannot know when Jesus is actually going to come back. It is when we try to predict the day or the hour that we get into trouble. Jesus lets the people know that not even the angels know when He will return. If they, being heavenly creatures that spend eternity with God, don't know the hour, it is impossible for us to be able to predict it no matter how hard we try. This does not mean that we are not able to discern the days that we are living in based on what this passage says will come to pass in the last days.

Jesus tells the people that the days will be as the times of Noah (see Genesis chapter 6) and that people will be debauched in everything they do. Over the course of history humanity has gone downhill in terms of its morality and righteousness. We are not increasing in our understanding of humanity and care for each other in fact, we are actually digressing into the depths of our own understanding and heart positions. This means that we only have our feelings and emotions to guide us and to tell us what is morally right or wrong. The more we follow our own passions, the more we will become depraved in everything that we do. As Christians, this does not cause us to lose heart however.

What the deprivation of humanity points to is the second coming of Christ. The worse the morality of the world gets, the closer He is to coming back and in a strange way this should encourage us. There is a way that we should then live and that is in holiness and righteousness. We strive to honor the Word of God and glorify the Son in our lives daily and we continue to strive to be completely different than what the world desires us to be. It is a good thing for Christians to look different from the world because we are not supposed to love the things of this world. (1 John 2:15) We are called to be living holy lives and in that regard we will be ready for the coming of our Master.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on what this passage says about the last days, do you think we are in them? What does that then mean for us as Christians?
2. Why do you think so many people try to predict the coming of Jesus? Would it be better in your mind for us to know the day and the hour or to be ignorant of it? Why or why not?
3. What similarities can we draw between our day and Noah's? What are some differences?
4. Is it bad to have feelings guide how we live our lives? Why or why not? How can we encourage others to stand on the Word of God and not on feelings alone?
5. Read 1 John 2:15. What does this verse mean? How do we put this verse into practice without being legalistic?

WRAP UP

Living a life that is separated from the world is something that God has given us to show other people not only that we are different from the world but that God's way is actually far better than what this world has to offer. The depravity that many press into in life can be so empty and unfulfilling and it is only when we fully surrender our lives and words and actions to Christ that we start to experience the joy that comes from realizing that He is so much better than anything else this world has to offer.