

## Watch Yourselves Lest Your Hearts Be Weighed Down

June 7, 2020

### This is no time to get distracted!

Luke 21:25-36 ESV

25 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,

26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

*2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NASB*

*1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,*

*2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.*

*3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,*

Luke 21:25-36 ESV

29 And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.

- watch (*prosechō*) to attend to oneself
- weighed down (*bareō*) mental oppression, depress, burden
- dissipation (*kraipalē*) excessive amount, the giddiness of excess, surfeiting
- drunkenness (*methē*) intoxication
- cares (*merimna*) distraction, anxiety, drawn in different directions

Luke 21:25-36 ESV

35 For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**"Good" distractions are the worst!**

Luke 14:16-24 ESV

16 But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many.

17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.'

19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.'

20 And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'

22 And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'

23 And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'

24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet."

## **Our Focus is Fixed!**

Colossians 3:1-4 ESV

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Ephesians 2:19-21 ESV

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

## **The Church cares for souls and needs in love and compassion.**

Luke 10:30-37 ESV

30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"  
37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

**The Church cares for souls and needs, but separately and independently of the world system, spirit, methodology and agenda.**

**"'We Can't Be Silent': Tony Dungy Implores Christians to 'Demonstrate the Qualities' of Jesus in the Fight for Racial Equality"**

*"'Well, what is the answer then?' Dungy asked. 'I believe it has to start with those of us who claim to be Christians. We have to come to the forefront and demonstrate the qualities of the One we claim to follow, Jesus Christ. We can't be silent. As Dr. King said many years ago, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!' But we can't go forward with judgmental, bitter, spirits. We need to be proactive, but do it in the spirit of trying to help make things better. And it can't be just the African American churches. It has to be ALL churches taking a stand and saying 'We are going to be on the forefront of meaningful dialogue and meaningful change.'"*

—Christian Headlines, June 1, 2020

- *The Church can never join hands with the world system in solving the world's problems.*
- *When the message, motives and methods become mingled between the Church and the world, God's Spirit and presence will depart.*
- *The Church's solution is foolishness to the world. The world hates the Church's solution and message. The world crucified the Church's solution - Jesus.*
- *The world is in rebellion to God. The world refuses to repent and turn from their sin. There can be no genuine and lasting transformation without repentance and regeneration.*

**"'We Can't Be Silent': Tony Dungy Implores Christians to 'Demonstrate the Qualities' of Jesus in the Fight for Racial Equality"**

*"'Today we are a divided country,' Dungy wrote. 'We're divided racially, politically, and socio-economically. And Satan is laughing at us because that is exactly what he wants. Dysfunction, mistrust, and hatred help his kingdom.'"*

*"'We saw many people out protesting and trying to make their feelings heard,' he wrote on Twitter. 'Most of it was peaceful but some was not. We saw a lot of hurting people. We saw a lot of angry people. We prayed for our country as we rode. Prayed that people who are hurting can direct their passion in [a] safe and productive way. And we prayed that our country can listen to people who are hurting and have concerns BEFORE they feel they have to lash out in anger to be heard. America we can solve this but it's going to take all of us, WORKING TOGETHER, to do it.'"*

—Christian Headlines, June 1, 2020

- Consider the injustice Jesus endured.

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,  
2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- We have all sinned and deserve justice in all areas of our life. Jesus never committed even one transgression which deserved justice.
- Both of His trials were set-up and manipulated in advance to manufacture one and only conclusion: condemnation and death by crucifixion.
- Jesus was beaten and then tortured on the cross for hours.
- Jesus' last words were not, "Where's the justice?" but "Father forgive them."
- Instead of demanding our rights, what if we responded to injustice the same way Jesus did? What if we responded to injustice the same way Stephen did in Acts?

*"Violence has erupted throughout the country in response to the death of George Floyd, but two ministry leaders in Houston—one white and one black—are showing people a different way. The two men led a prayer vigil Sunday, and the event featured a powerful moment when the white participants knelt in front of the black participants, asking for their forgiveness."*

—White Prayer Vigil Participants Confess Years and Years of Racism, ChurchLeaders.com, June 2, 2020

1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

John 15:18-19 ESV

18 If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

2 Corinthians 6:16-17 ESV

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

James 4:4 ESV

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.