

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The Bible teaches us to watch and pray as we await the Saviour (Luke 21:36). What should we watch for? What should we pray for?
2. How can we help insure that we will be ready at Christ's return?
3. What are the dangers involved for a Christian during the period of waiting for His return?
4. In what condition will the world be when Christ returns?

SUMMARY:

Whether the Pharisees were serious or skeptical may be questionable, but Jesus was certainly serious in His answer. He pointed out they were focusing their sights in the wrong direction by looking to something in the future. The urgency of the hour was to be ready recognizing that the Kingdom of God was there in the midst of them. The real need was not to know when but to be a part of that Kingdom.

To the disciples who were looking forward to the establishment of His kingdom on this earth, Jesus pointed out that certainly He would come to reign, but first He must suffer many things and be rejected.

Meanwhile, the world would go on as before. Just as in the days of Noah and Lot the world would be so engrossed in the material things and fulfilling the present lusts, that they would be caught unprepared for the Kingdom. An immediate separation will take place. Only those who are faithful subjects of the King will be taken with Him.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

February 15, 2004

First Quarter

SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN

LESSON TEXT: *Luke 17:20-37*

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

I. PROPHECY OF HIS RETURN. Luke 17:20-25

- A. Return Prophesied (vs. 24) Matthew 26:64; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28

II. SIGNS OF HIS RETURN. Luke 17:26-32

- A. Knowledge and Travel Shall Increase. Daniel 12:4
- B. Wars, Famines and Earthquakes. Matthew 24:6-7
- C. Deceivers Will be Active. Matthew 24:4-5, 11
- D. Christians Will be Persecuted. Matthew 24:9
- E. Gospel Preached to All Nations. Matthew 24:14
- F. Restoration of Israel. Amos 9:14-15; Isaiah 60:10

III. SEPARATIONS AT HIS RETURN. Luke 17:33-37

- A. Tares from Wheat. Matthew 13:30
- B. Wicked from Just. Matthew 13:49
- C. Sheep from Goats. Matthew 25:32
- D. A Great Gulf Divides. Luke 16:26
- E. Evil are Outside. Revelation 22:15

GOLDEN TEXT: THEREFORE BE YE ALSO READY: FOR IN SUCH AN OUR AS YE THINK NOT THE SON OF MAN COMETH.

Matthew 24:44

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 19:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Exodus 20:15-16;
Leviticus 19:11-13; Psalm 15:1-5;
Proverbs 6:16-23

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of Man

TOPIC: SEEKING AND SAVING THE SINNER

INTRODUCTION:

“Christ came to save sinners.” How often we read or hear this phrase spoken. What does it really mean to us? Has it become so commonplace that it holds very little for us? What does it hold for the unconverted, for the born-again Christian?

It should mean Life. Life for us all, if we have accepted Him as our personal Saviour. It means our all, our only hope for this life and for eternal life. Without this truth, “Christ came to save sinners,” each of us would be hopelessly, eternally lost.

To accept this truth we must see Jesus. Are we too proud to climb a tree if our own faith is short, to see Him? Can we seize the opportunity to see Him, when God calls? We must constantly seek to see Him, looking always to Him for our daily help, strength and grace to meet whatever may come our way. He is there, ready to be met, or reached if we but put forth the effort needed. What an example Zacchaeus is. He did all he could to get only a glimpse of Jesus and what a marvelous result was granted.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God's great purpose has always been to reach and save the sinner.

GOLDEN TEXT: THE SON OF MAN IS COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST.

Luke 19:10

We are not able to comprehend the concern of God, the Creator and Jesus, His Son toward lost mankind. We are the work of His hand, made in His image, but lost in sin without a hope of salvation, until Jesus comes to “seek and save.” Jesus described His love and compassion for us in the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.

Jesus was willing to come into the world to save us, but we must be willing to do our part, as Zacchaeus was. Imagine how difficult it would be for a shepherd to find a lost sheep if it hides and remains silent. But it is the nature of a sheep to be frightened and to cry out when lost and separated from the flock. This makes it easier for the loving shepherd to find and to save his own.

So for all of us who find ourselves separated from His flock, lost outside the fold, if we will realize our lost condition, and cry out to the “Good Shepherd,” we will find Him “able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 16 - 22

- M. God's Response to Seekers. Deuteronomy 4:25-40
- T. *Seeking and Saving the Sinner. Luke 19:1-10
- W. Seeking to Save the World. John 3:14-21
- T. The Seeking Saviour. John 4:1-14
- F. The Seeking Father. John 4:15-30
- S. The Seeking Multitude. John 4:31-42
- S. Seeking Better Things. Hebrews 11:8-16