

## **“The End Will Come!” – live each day as if Jesus will come today!**

05-19-13

“The End Will Come”! A statement like this brings to mind a variety of things. Perhaps, they cause you to think about somebody walking on the street with these words written in large letters on both sides of a sandwich board, or someone standing on a podium yelling it out.

Since Jesus talked about this, it sounds like it even was an issue for His time. Jesus is just weeks away from crucifixion and there are some things He wants to teach not only the disciples, but also the people around Him.

Turn to Matthew 24. Jesus had talked about heaven often, but now He wanted to make sure people understood how the end will be. He had promised a place in heaven for all who believe in Him. The problem was that the disciples needed to be prepared for what was to come because Jesus knew He was leaving earth and they were going to be His spokesmen about the end of the world. He had promised them the Holy Spirit to guide and lead them, but there were five important things they needed to know.

The Particulars are Unknown. Look at verse 36, *“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”* Because no one will know when, it’s very important we’re ready at any time. For all we know, the end could come before this sermon is done! Or maybe before you get home today! Or maybe after all of us are gone from earth! We just don’t know! We have to be ready!

The People will be Unaware. Verses 38-39, *“For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”* That’s why I changed the title from *“live each day as if Jesus will come tomorrow”*, to *“live each day as if Jesus will come today”*! If we just think it will maybe be tomorrow, we’ll just keep putting off faith and obeying God because we think we’ll always have more time. But the time to be ready is now!

But as Jesus continues, He tells that as He comes again, He will come to judge! Look at Matthew 25:32-33, *“Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.”*

He knows how we’ve lived and how we’ve believed. He knows how closely we’ve followed His command to love others as He has loved us. The separation in these verses is the separation between those who have believed and those who have not.

For those who have not on His left, there will be an eternal separation from Him and The Pain will be Unbearable. Verse 41, *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”* When Jesus said *‘follow Me and live by My commands’* He meant it! You and I sin! But we need to realize what we’ve done and confess our wrongs to Him. When we come to Him humbly confessing our sins, He wipes them away and they are no more!

Sadly, there are those who feel that faith and obedience is just a sign of weakness and following Jesus is just a joke. But hell isn’t! A definition of hell is, *“where God is not!”* Even though there are times on earth we think we’re living in hell, there’s one thing we need to remember; God’s still here right at our side. But in Hell, He isn’t! That’s why what He’s prepared for Satan and all who’ve fallen into Satan’s trap is going to be unbearable!

But for the faithful, He welcomes them into heaven to be with Him for eternity. For them, The Prize will be Unbelievable! Look at verse 34, *“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”* Jesus loves us with a never-ending love. He came to take our punishment. It’s His desire that all come to know and believe in Him. That’s why He

gave His Great Commission, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

And that puts us squarely at Pentecost today! The Proclamation is Critical! This Commission needed to be the focus for the disciples and it needs to be our focus each and every day! Turn to Acts 2. As the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit, they were able to boldly proclaim Jesus Christ to the people assembled in Jerusalem that morning. Peter, in his message, wanted to be very clear they understood who Jesus was.

Look at verses 22-24, *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”* This message was a message to those who had witnessed Jesus’ presence. They had seen His actions and heard His words, but they had not believed and had put Jesus to death!

Peter, with the Holy Spirit’s power, wanted to make sure they knew Jesus! When the people realized what they’d done to Him, they wanted to know what they could do now! Look at verses 38-40, *“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”*

This needs to be our proclamation now! The end will come! We’re closer to home in heaven today than we’ve ever been before! Prepare your heart for His coming again! Be His active ambassadors, and with the Holy Spirit’s power, prepare others so they will know and believe Jesus came for them as their Savior and wants them to be with Him forever!