

## 2021.03.21 Sunday Sermon <Waiting For That Day>

### **Mark 13:33**

<sup>33</sup> *Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.*

### **Luke 17:26-30**

<sup>26</sup> *“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. <sup>27</sup> People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. <sup>29</sup> But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.*

Today's scripture reflects on the end of the days. We do not know when Jesus Christ will be back. It may not be during our time, but as we wait these are key notes and questions we shall ask ourselves. Let's look at two images on the screen. First, we see images of fire and sulfur rain coming down from the heaven. On the second image, we see Noah's ark where the door is closed and there are people asking to be saved. As we see these images, we ask ourselves...what must we do to prepare for the end of the days? And why is Jesus reflecting the days of Noah and his ark?

### **1. Are We Living Ungodly Lives?**

Let look at the verse 27 from today's scripture.

#### **Luke 17:27**

<sup>27</sup> *People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.*

When we read first phrase, it seems like people were living their lives eating, drinking, and marrying...seems normal but deep inside they were corrupted and leading ungodly lives. We too need to question our lives...are we living ungodly lives?

As we look into Genesis, we see people were living longer years.

#### **Genesis 6:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”*

However, as we look at Noah and his time, we see that people were living shorter years. This was because people were living ungodly and corrupted lives.

During the time when Noah was building the ark, people were living corrupted lives and sexual immorality covered the land.

#### **Genesis 19:5**

<sup>5</sup> *They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”*

In this chapter of Genesis, two angels arrive in Sodom, and Lot shows them hospitality. However, the men of the city gather around Lot's house and demand that he give them the two guests so they could know them. In response, Lot offers the mob his two daughters instead, noting that they are virgins. The fact that the other is offering his daughters show how corrupt their lives were.

As we look at 2 Timothy chapter 3, Paul describes the last days. He highlights that the wicked and depraved ways of men will bring hardness and danger.

**\*Story of Hollywood Actress**

Well known actress who won two Oscars, left her husband and daughter to marry a director to seek more happiness. She went on to dating/marrying/divorcing several other men...wanting to be happy. Later, her daughter ends up stabbing and killing her step-father. The actress died suffering from illness.

Although we may not experience such tragedy in our lives, but are we seeking the same happiness the actress desired? We need to stop and ask ourselves...are we living ungodly lives? Are we ready for the end of days? Are we ready to meet the Lord and Jesus?

## **2. Do You Love Money More Than God?**

Let us turn to verse 28 from scripture today.

**Luke 17:28**

<sup>28</sup> *"It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.*

The activities listed on this verse sounds normal today, but what the scripture emphasizes is that these activities were favoring worldly things more than God alone. We all need materials to move on with our daily lives, but materials alone should not be the goal in life. If we love materials and money more than the Lord, that is when our lives will take a detour.

Let's look at Lot's wife. It seems like she favored materials over the Lord. The story of Lot's wife begins in Genesis 19 after two angels arrived in Sodom and were invited to spend the night at Lot's home. As dawn was breaking, Lot's visiting angels urged him to get his family and flee, so as to avoid being caught in the impending disaster for the iniquity of the city. The command was given, "Flee for your life! Do not look behind you, nor stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, lest you be swept away." While fleeing, Lot's wife turned to look back, and was turned into a pillar of salt.

When you look at Abraham, he was the opposite of Lot's wife. He didn't follow money/materials, he followed the Lord. His faith allowed him to follow the commands of the Lord and thus left to the land Lord told him to go. When he followed the Lord's command, money/materials were provided for Abraham.

**\* Story of Jack Whittaker**

Jack was a successful business man. In 2002 Christmas, he bought a lottery ticket hoping for more happiness. He won \$314 million dollar lottery ticket. This was the largest ticket in U.S. history at that time. Ten years later, this is what happened to his life. His granddaughter and her boyfriend got overdosed and died. Jack's own daughter died. Jack faced robbery, got sued by many people, and ended up with more debt due to gambling. Seeking for more happiness brought more misery to Jack.

Let us turn to 1 Timothy:

**1 Timothy 6:10**

*<sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief.*

The Lord is telling us - I have given so much but why are you hungry for more? Why are you desiring for more money? The Lord reminds us that the end of days are coming and we need to prepare ourselves. We need to wake-up and check where we are heading in life and what our goals are in life.

**3. Are We Living Lives That Despises Word of God?**

Let us turn to Genesis 19 again:

**Genesis 19:14**

*<sup>14</sup>So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.*

This verse makes us stop and ask...are we ignoring the Word of God? Just as Lot took the message of the Lord as a joke, are we not listening to the Word of God? When we read about God's creation in seven days - do all people agree or think the other way? If we don't believe in the Word of God, can we truly say we believe in Our Lord and Jesus Christ?

Let's look at the image on the screen. As Noah was telling the people the message of God, no one believed him. They believed Noah was crazy to build the ark when there is no flood. My brothers and sisters, when we hear the Lord's message, we need to be awake and listen to the Lord's words.

When you look at David and Paul, they also ignored the message of God in their lives. However, they both regretted and asked for repentance. They turned their lives to focus only onto the Lord and were prepared for their meeting with the Lord. Let us look at our lives today and see where we stand and where we are headed.

Let us turn to 2 Peter chapter 2:

**2 Peter 2:9**

*<sup>9</sup>if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.*

**2 Peter 2:10**

*<sup>10</sup>This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh<sup>[a]</sup> and despise authority.*

*Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings;*

Because Jesus died on the cross for us, we still have time to prepare and listen to the messages the Lord has for us. We all still have chance to enter the heaven gates. We do not know the end of days, so we need to prepare now.

Yesterday, I found out about passing of Pastor Hwang Kyung-Yil due to COVID-19. He was called to be God's servant late in his life. He truly gave everything to the Lord and became the bridge between the 1st and 2nd generation of Christians. When I read about this news, I thought about that end date...and what must I be doing at that moment? These questions lead to today's message.

### **In Summary**

As we wait for the final day, let us wake up and ask ourselves the following questions:

1. *Are we living ungodly lives?*
2. *Do we love money more than God?*
3. *Are we living lives that despises or ignoring the Word of God?*

In **Mark 13:37**, Jesus said the following -

<sup>37</sup> *What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'*"

### **Praise**

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died  
My riches gain I count but Loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride*