

## Sermon Notes Dec 2, 2018

### Luke 21:25-36

25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

#### First Sunday of Advent

#### Introduction

##### 1. You may be asking yourself “What in the world is Advent?”

**A. Well it is the season of the year that specifically proclaims the comings (Both the First and the Last) of the Jesus Christ.**

**B. First, we experience the birth of Christ and Secondly, we prepare to celebrate once again, His Second Coming.**

**C. Over the next few Sundays we will be looking at passages**

- 1) that will help us enjoy this time of year,
- 2) allow to grow deeper spiritually
- 3) and to assist us to celebrate both Jesus' birth and His Second Coming.

##### 2. This morning our Gospel passage takes us into a period of time around 30 - 35 years after Jesus' death and resurrection

**A. A great deal has been and is going on since Jesus' resurrection;**

- 1) Philip, Lydia, Barnabas, Priscilla, Silas and Timothy and hundreds of others are sharing the message of Jesus Christ all around the world.
- 2) The Apostle Paul has been sent to Rome to await his trial with the real possibility that he will be executed

for his faith proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah and Lord.

- 3) The Apostle Peter has been traveling all over the Middle East and only on rare occasions does he make it back to the Promise Land.

**B. And today when we look around, it sure looks a lot like the time period of the First Century Christianity.**

**C. Both our nation and the world are in a time of uncertainty and unrest.**

**D. From all appearances, it appears that something disastrous is looming just around the corner.**

**E. Today we have President Trump, Russian President Putin, China's President Xi Jinping, North Korea's Kim Jong Un along with a host of others that seem to love to do nothing more**

**than to create one global crisis after another.**

- 1) One any given day one of them or one of the other world leaders hints of starting some kind of economic, social or military conflict that sends shock waves all over the world.
- 2) On top of all of that, for the first time since the time of the Tower of Babel over 50% of humanity is once again living in major urban areas.
- 3) This urbanization is radically transforming our planet socially, politically, economically and spiritually.
- 4) What is truly remarkable, is that all of this has happened in the span of 30 years.
- 5) In 1990 only 13% of the people were living in large urban areas whereas today it is over 50% of the people.
- 6) Today, more people today live in an urban areas than live in a rural ones.
- 7) Take the city of Shanghai, China for example.
  - A mere 40 years ago it was just a small out of the place fishing village.
  - Today, some 16 million people call it home and over 3,000 towers and skyscrapers fill its skies.
- 8) Take the city of Lagos, Nigeria.

- Back in 1960 it was home to around 700,000 people

but today over 21 million people  
live in and around Lagos.

9) Population control, disease control, environmental control

and a hundred other things are crashing down

around us at all times.

10) Our world is becoming more and more of a mess  
and no one knows how to get us all together  
before we try to kill each other again.

11) World War III seems to just be around the corner.

#### **F. Even the Global Church of Jesus Christ is facing a crisis.**

- 1) While we are some 2 billion strong  
we are not unified and at times it appears  
that we are at war with one another.
- 2) Walk out of a typical Pentecostal Service, a Nazarene Service,  
a Presbyterian Service or even Catholic Service  
and you could get the sense that we don't like one another.
- 3) And we all know that the world  
does not understand or even like the Church.
- 4) Talk to the average person on the street  
and many of them, at least in the Western World  
believe that the church is out of style.
- 5) They believe that Christianity is outdated.
  - It is boring and irrelevant.
  - After all, who needs Christianity and grace  
now that we have Facebook and the Internet?

#### **G. Many in the world believe that what we need is more sex, social gatherings, sports, entertainment or anything that can take away our pain, our fears and our boredom.**

- 1) What we need is someone to provide for us  
anything and everything, so that we can sit back and chill out.
- 2) What we need is a revolution  
that will bring all of us more money and pleasure in our lives.
- 3) After all, if Jesus and Christianity were so special  
why are there so many problems today

in so many churches and denominations?

- 4) Hasn't Christianity had 2,000 years to solve the world's problems?
- 5) If Christianity has all the answers then why is no one listening anymore?

### **3. So, what are we to do today?**

#### **A. What message do we have for our world, for our communities, for our families and for ourselves?**

- 1) How can we share the message of Hope?

#### **B. Luke tells his readers that we are to do the same things that Jesus wanted his followers to do when He was on the earth.**

- 1) Jesus wants us to do the same thing that the Holy Spirit told Luke to write in today's passage.

#### **C. If ever the world needed to hear the message of Jesus and the message of Hope, it is today.**

- 1) If ever the world needed to see the Light of Christ, it is today.

#### **D. And if you look around, you can see that the harvest fields are ripe all around us.**

- 1) Did you know that Dollar General is opening 3 new stores each and every week all over the United States?
- 2) Dollar Tree, Target and Lowe's are all opening new stores all over the US as well.
- 3) Business is booming because people are booming.

#### **E. So, what am I trying to say?**

- 1) Big business as well as small business know that people are coming and will be coming for years to come.
- 2) We in the Church must not be caught in these last days being unprepared for a Great Awakening and Revival of Jesus Christ.
- 3) Even as the Bible tells us that perils are coming it also tells us of a great awakening being on the horizon.

### **4. So what should our message of hope be?**

#### **A. First of all, we need to tell the world that Jesus Is the Only Begotten Son of God.**

- 1) He is Our Savior and our Lord.
- 2) We need to not only proclaim this but we need to be a witness that Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life.
- 3) There is no other name that can rescue us, redeem us and enable us to be restored into the image of God Almighty.

## 5. And why is that?

### A. It is because we believe in a God of holiness and we are to be a people dedicated to a life of holiness.

- 1) We believe that God can and will save and sanctify us through the power of His Holy Spirit.
- 2) We believe that a life of holiness is an ongoing lifestyle that enables a person, a family and a community to be able to live a life that bears fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) We believe that God can and will enable us to live the Abundant Life here and now on the earth which reflects God's glory and honor.
- 4) We believe that God has a mission for us here and now and will anoint us with His Holy Spirit that will enable us to pour our lives into the lives of others.
- 5) We believe that we are called to share the message of Jesus Christ with everyone around the world including those in our own neighborhoods.
- 6) We believe that Jesus Christ is coming again and we want to do our best to help everyone we can to be ready for His Second Coming.

## 6. And how is this done?

### A. We are a people who Stand and who Stand for Jesus alone.

Verse 28 [When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up](#)

[your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.](#)”

### B. And not only are we to stand, we are also to raise our heads.

- 1) Raising your heads allows you to get a proper perspective of what's coming.
- 2) It lets you be able to take account of what is around you.

**C. All around us people are losing hope.**

- 1) They are losing hope in themselves, in their families and in their communities.
- 2) They are losing hope in believing that tomorrow is going to be better than today or yesteryear.
- 3) People are full of anxiety, depression and confusion.
- 4) They are looking down, looking backwards or not looking at all.
- 5) We who are in Christ are to have our heads looking up.

**D. The Apostle Paul understood this as he wrote about the Holy Spirit in Colossians chapter three**

- 1) This is the same Holy Spirit Paul referred to that if we read our Bibles and understand Christian History we can see that the Holy Spirit empowered people to be able to live above the pains, the sufferings, the ignorance and the ills of the world.
- 2) This is the same Holy Spirit that teaches us that a Christian is a New Person who thinks differently, who lives differently and who is different than non-Christians.

**7. That is why we are to look up towards God and not down towards sin.**

**A. We are to not look down to what Jesus referred to as carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life.**

Verse 34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

**B. If we are not careful, we will find ourselves getting caught up in all the stuff of this world.**

- 1) Especially this time of the year.
- 2) We can find ourselves getting upset with all the commercialism, all the greed and the wrong focus on what it means to give and on all that Santa stuff.
- 3) We can find ourselves at odds with our family and friends and with the world in general.

**C. So just look up to Christ. Plain and simple.**

- 1) Don't get all stressed out about Santa or Rudolph  
or even the Elf on the Shelf.
- 2) Don't get caught up by all the commercialism.
- 3) Don't get caught up in all the crazy stuff  
that goes on during this time of the year.

**9. And when you look up, see the signs God provides.**

25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

**A. The signs which the unbelieving world distort or deny**

**are the same signs which the saint will heed.**

- 1) The signs which bring terror and fear to the unbeliever,  
will bring courage and hope to the saint.

**B. Therefore, Jesus instructed believers to  
"stand up and to lift up their heads,"**

**because their redemption was near.**

- 1) The reason is that these signs precede the return of Jesus,  
and His return in great power and glory.
- 2) When Jesus comes, He will deal with His enemies and ours.
- 3) He will remove the wicked, as He will reward the righteous.
- 4) His coming should bring terror to His enemies,  
and joy to His friends.

**C. Instead, keep your head lifted high.**

- 1) In other words, keep your mind on what is most important.
- 2) This is the Season of Advent.
- 3) This is the time when we once again focus on the reality  
that Jesus came into our world.

**D. Think about that for a moment.**

- 1) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into our world.

- 2) He left His Home in Heaven and Came to be Among Us.
- 3) This is the time when we focus  
on the reason why Jesus came into our world.
- 4) He came to rescue us from the power and penalty of sin.
- 5) Jesus came to bring all of us a New Life.
- 6) Jesus came to defeat the powers of Evil  
and to Infill Us with His Holy Spirit.
- 7) Jesus came to help us experience the Abundant Life,  
the Life that He, the Father and the Holy Spirit planned  
for Adam and Eve and all of Humanity in the First Place.

## **Conclusion**

### **A. This morning, let's take a stand and enjoy this year.**

- 1) Let's take a stand and enjoy knowing  
Jesus as Our Lord and Savior.
- 2) Let's take a stand and live out the blessings  
that can come from a life of holiness, freedom, love, grace,  
mercy and peace.
- 3) Let's take a stand and be a light for everyone to see.
- 4) Become a light that comes from the love of God  
shining in and through you.
- 5) That is the Hope of not only you but the whole world.

### **And as you take a Stand remember to Lift your Head**

We don't have to allow the World, the Devil or Sin  
to cause Us to think the wrong way, to become depressed  
or to focus on the evils of the age.

### **As you lift your head, also turn off the noise of this world.**

Quit listening to what the TV, the internet, social media and the like  
and realize that one day and perhaps one day soon,  
we will be lifting up our heads and actually seeing Jesus Christ  
coming out of the Sky to take all of us  
to the New Heaven and the New Earth.

In fact it is impossible to Lift up your head and not focus  
on Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

### **Remember it was Babylon that captured God's People**

but the day came with Babylon fell  
and soon the People of God were returning to Israel  
to rebuild the wall, the Temple and their nation.

**Rome also captured God's People**

but the day came when Rome fell  
and today we no longer see the Roman Empire  
but we do see the reemergence of God's People.