Don’t Be Misled by Your Comforts

Sermon by Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

A personal recap and study guide for reflection throughout the week.

The Central Message

Suffering often awakens our awareness of our need for God. Comfort, however, can lull us into believing we need nothing. Jesus warns His church not to confuse material security with spiritual health or allow the concerns of life to diminish its longing for His return.

KEY THOUGHT • “Comfort leads to complacency. Complacency is spiritual anesthesia.”

Following the Message Through Scripture

1 Israel cried out in suffering

After Jacob’s family multiplied in Egypt, a new Pharaoh subjected the Israelites to oppression. God heard their cries and raised up Moses to deliver them (Exodus 3:7–8). Their affliction brought their need for deliverance into sharp focus.

2 The cycle in the days of the judges

God raised up judges to rescue His people when they groaned under oppression. Yet after a judge died, they repeatedly returned to stubbornness and idolatry (Judges 2:18–19). Relief did not always produce lasting faithfulness.

3 A people longing for Messiah

Under Roman rule, Israel’s hope for the promised Messiah remained alive. Luke describes the people as being “in a state of expectation” (Luke 3:15). Need and suffering can deepen longing for God’s intervention.

4 A church that thought it needed nothing

Jesus confronted the church in Laodicea because it said, “I am rich … and have need of nothing,” while failing to recognize its spiritual poverty (Revelation 3:17). He lovingly called the church to repent, listen, and open the door to Him (Revelation 3:19–20).

5 Stay awake and ready

Jesus warned that dissipation, drunkenness, and the worries of life can weigh down the heart and leave a person unprepared (Luke 21:34–36). Paul looked forward to the crown of righteousness promised to those who love Christ’s appearing (2 Timothy 4:7–8).

Truths to Carry With You

- Comfort is not necessarily wrong, but it can hide our spiritual need.
- Relief from trouble is not the same as enduring devotion to God.
- Christ’s correction is an expression of His love (Revelation 3:19).
- Spiritual alertness includes repentance, prayer, and eager expectation of Christ’s return.

Personal Reflection & Study

1. When have difficult circumstances made me more aware of my dependence on God?
2. Where might comfort, routine, or material security be weakening my spiritual attentiveness?
3. What is the difference between saying “I have need of nothing” and resting confidently in God’s provision?
4. What might Christ be calling me to repent of or respond to today?
5. Does my daily life reflect a genuine longing for Christ’s appearing? What would change if it did?

Read and Reflect This Week

Day 1 | Exodus 3:7–8
Thank God that He sees suffering and hears the cries of His people.

Day 2 | Judges 2:18–19
Identify a pattern you do not want to repeat when life improves.

Day 3 | Luke 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:7–8
Consider what it means to eagerly await the Messiah.

Day 4 | Revelation 3:14–22
Listen carefully to Jesus’ diagnosis, correction, and invitation.

Day 5 | Luke 21:34–36
Pray for an alert heart that is not weighed down by this life.

A Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus, keep me from mistaking comfort for closeness to You. Show me where I have grown complacent, give me a willing heart to repent, and renew my desire to hear Your voice. Teach me to live watchfully, faithfully, and with joy as I await Your appearing. Amen.

One Step of Application

This week I will make room for spiritual attentiveness by:

_____

_____