

Laboring for the Lord

Luke 21:34-36

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Pastor Rob covered in Luke 21 the Imminent Return of Jesus Christ and the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. He encouraged us to have hope that we will be snatched away and delivered from God's wrath. In the meantime, watch and pray.

Luke 21:34-36: But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Three things that Jesus warns us that can weigh down our hearts and cause us to be distracted or caught off-guard:

A. **Carousing (surfeiting)** - indulging in one's appetites excessively.

It could be food or drink or many other things.

B. **Drunkenness** or intoxication

C. **Cares of this life**

a. **Luke 8:11-15:** Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring

- no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.
- b. **Matthew 13:22:** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.
- c. **Mark 4:18-19:** Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- d. **Galatians 5:22-23:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Mark 13:32-37: But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!

Three orders the Master of the House gave his servants when he went to a far country:

John 14:2-3: In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- A. Gave **authority** to his servants – exousia - power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases
- B. Doorkeeper to **watch** - gregoreuo - watch, wake, be vigilant
 - a. The Marine Sentries of the White House West Wing
- C. To each **his work** – ergon - business, employment, that which any one is occupied – occupation

WORKS DO NOT SAVE

- A. **Titus 3:5:** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.
- B. **Ephesians 2:8-10:** For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship (poiēma - tapestry), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

James 2:18-26: But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the **demons believe**—and tremble! But do you want to know, oh foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, **was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The Need for Laborers

A. **Matthew 9:35-38:** Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

B. A 2023 Lifeway Research study found that while 83% of churchgoers say they want to serve, only 37% have served in the past year. The study also suggests that people who regularly participate in church may be more likely to be asked to serve by others they get to know.

Many Opportunities to Serve

- A. **1 Corinthians 12:4-6:** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
- B. **1 Corinthians 12:12-14:** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. (Foot or hand or eye or ear or nose)
- C. **1 Corinthians 12:27-31:** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Who is the Lord's Typical Servant?

1 Corinthians 1:26-29: For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Why Should You Serve?

- A. **1 Timothy 4:8:** For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.
- B. **John 15:13-17:** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.

Calvary Internal Ministries

(Calvary Corvallis app - Turquoise square "Serve")

- Sunday Visual Tech – Media Team
- Sunday Greeter team
- Sunday Parking team

- Calvary Clean Team
- Calvary Kids Team
- Calvary Photographers
- Ministries for: children, middle school, high school, **Real Life** (college-age)
- Mentors for men, women, college students, and interns
- **House church hosts**
- **Food** - BBQ team, **Missions Café**, event cooking
- Property Team
- Building Care Team
- Firewood Ministry
- Event Ministry
- Front Office Support
- Hospitality

External Ministry:

- LOVE, Inc.

Start your own:

- **The Glorify Project:** Women helping women in unplanned pregnancies.
- **YOU Medical** (Kennewick, WA): provides pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STD tests, education, abusive relationship exit plan, etc. A community where those facing unintended pregnancy and sexual health issues find hope and are transformed by the gospel of Jesus through our life-affirming services.
- **Home Bible Studies**
- **Gospel-Centered Clubs**