

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"THE ALREADY AND THE NOT YET" | LUKE 17: 20-37 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

If there was a flood or fire threatening your home, what would you probably try to save?

"The Already" (Luke 17: 20-21)

Jesus tells the Jews looking for the kingdom of God that it won't come in ways that can be observed, hinting at the fact that he wasn't the type of king they were looking for. **What type of king do many people look for? How is Jesus different?**

"The Not Yet" (Luke 17: 22-37)

Jesus tells his disciples that when Judgment comes, many people will be going about their lives, pursuing their goals and desires. **What about daily life makes it hard to prepare for Jesus coming again? How should people prepare?**

Jesus warns his disciples that when Judgment does come, the people too attached to their stuff and lives will suffer. **How can followers of Jesus be focused on Him and less attached to their lives?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus' warning here is about Hope. People who Hope for Him and His Return will not fear losing their stuff, routines, connections or experiences. But people who look back and try to save their earthly lives show their hope is in all those things and not in King Jesus. **Where do you place your Hope? How would Hoping for Jesus affect how you lived today? Pray that God will help you let go of earthly things that would hold you back and to run towards Him.**

The Already and The Not Yet

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide2-11 Dan:** @ Risk. Closed. 3-5th Wntr Cmp. Camp Out. Unfolding Gospel. Starting Pnt. Foster. R&R. JM12. BCC.
- B. **Slide12** Our hearts go out to the Calhoun family. Deputy **Darnell Calhoun**, Riv Sheriff, killed in the line of duty in L.E. Fri. (Darnell was in our High School ISP. Played football for us his senior year, *great running back*). **Wife Vanessa**, also a **CMCS graduate**, is pregnant w/their 3rd child (2 boys, 2 & 4). [**VFW Post1508 Wildomar**, Spagh din 5pm Sun/Mon \$8. *all proceeds for the family*]
- C. **Prayer:**

II. Slide13 **Intro: The Already and The Not Yet**

- A. **MLK Jr** said, *Our lives begin to end, the day we become **silent** about things that **matter***. Here Jesus reminds us all of *the things that matter* regarding His kingdom.
- B. **Title:** *The Already and the Not Yet*.
1. The kingdom has been **inaugurated**, **yet** has not yet been **consummated**.
 2. The kingdom has come (1st coming) **and** is coming (2nd coming).
 - a) And **we live in-between** the already **and** the not yet.
 - b) **Jesus** will 1st speak about *the already* in vs.21,22 w/**the Pharisees**, **Then** He will speak about the *not yet* w/**the disciples** vs.22-37.
 - (1) **Then** ch.18 begins w/**until then, what are we supposed to do?**
We are always to pray and not lose heart.
- C. **Slide14** 3 months ago, **Eli Manning** had a *team of makeup artist* disguise himself, **and then** went as a walk-on at Penn State, as a quarterback. **Chad Powers** (or *Fast Chad*, speaking to himself in the 3rd person)
1. They did not know that **Eli Manning** was *in the midst of them*.

2. We step on the field today, and the Pharisees did not know it was **The King of The Kingdom of God**, *standing in their midst*.

III. Slide15 **THE ALREADY** (20,21)

A. **PHARISEES ASK WHEN?** (20)¹

B. They knew Jesus was *on His way to Jerusalem* and of course *were looking for a political, military, and materialistic earthly kingdom now*. see 19:11

C. The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be **observed** – (*observed* only time in NT) means “*to lie in wait, to spy.*” (TDNT)

1. Jesus cautions us not to devote our time to *spying on the future* and *trying to second-guess God*.
2. They misunderstood *the nature of the kingdom*, and thus missed its present reality.

D. **JESUS ANSWERS WHERE** (21)

E. Jesus said, *Don't look at when but where*. It was *in their midst, within their reach*.

1. Jesus was saying, *if you're looking for a kingdom, then you must desire to be with the King. I'm the King, thus My kingdom is right here!*

F. The term kingdom used by Jesus means **reign**, *not realm*. [reign = *where he rules*]

- a) Thus he seeks to rule where? ... *within you, or in your heart!*
2. If He doesn't reign in your heart now, you won't live in His realm later.

IV. Slide16 **THE NOT YET** (22-37)

A. Slide17 **RUMORS ABOUT THE 2ND COMING** (22-24)

1. **FICTION** (22,23) False reports will say, *he had returned to this place or another place*. The days are coming when I won't be here among you. When I'm away ... don't be seduced.

¹ Much of the Outline taken from Outline Bible.

2. **FACTS** (24)

3. Unlike *the already*, which was quiet and humble, the *not yet* will be as **obvious as lightning**.

B. **Slide18 PREREQUISITE BEFORE THE 2ND COMING** (25)

C. He will 1st be **rejected** and **crucified**. *The **cross** is the **heart** of God's purpose, & the **key** to His kingdom.*

D. **Slide19a CONDITIONS EXISTING AT THE 2ND COMING** (26-30)

E. When He returns he **won't** find everybody ready & waiting for Him.

1. **Nope**, things will be going on just as they were before 2 OT judgments were about to take place.

F. **Ps**: I do not believe He is speaking about the **Rapture** here, but about **judgment** before entering the kingdom (2nd Coming).²

1. Both men lived just before **great judgments**.

2. **Slide19b SIMILAR TO CONDITIONS IN DAYS OF NOAH** (26–27)

3. **In the days of Noah** - it was *business as usual*.

a) **Today** Jesus would say, they were going down to the park, meeting up at coffee shops, going into the office, **and** no one was **prepared**.

4. **Lots wife** - she had every warning to flee Sodom, her family was with her, yet she still looks back. It was more than *the physical act* of just looking back. **She looked back because of what she loved**.

a) *She could get out of Sodom, but she couldn't get Sodom out of her.*

b) *Her feet were running, but her heart was staying.* Alistair Begg

5. **When the Son of Man returns**, it will be **like a rerun of Noah and Lot**. People will be absorbed in daily life, absorbed in things, **not** looking for the **Savior** and **Judge** to appear.

² Walvoord; The Bible Knowledge Commentary, pg.249.

a) The same problem will exist when Jesus ushers in *His Kingdom*. People will ignore the warnings and will just keep living life up to the time of destruction.

6. SIMILAR TO CONDITIONS IN DAYS OF LOT (28-30)

7. In the same way with the materialistic, indifferent people of Sodom (eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, & building) were also not prepared for God's judgment (Gen.19).

a) They were **living in sin**, and **oblivious to God**.

b) What will the world be like just before the final judgment and the coming of the Lord? It will be *business as usual*.

8. They lost the **best** by living for the **good**.

a) It's a dangerous thing to *get so absorbed in the pursuits of life* that we forget **Jesus is Coming!**

9. Jesus consistently taught the **certainty** of the fact of His Coming, **but the uncertainty** of the time.³

G. Slide20a WARNING CONCERNING THE 2ND COMING (31-33)

1. Let me again say, this section is **not** talking about the **Rapture**. **It is talking about the middle of the tribulation.**

a) They were told *not to linger* (people of Jerusalem). Don't go downstairs and get anything, *not even your photo albums*, get out quick.

b) **See** during the tribulation, the antichrist will oppress the earth, **but especially Jerusalem**, which becomes **Ground-Zero**.

c) **Zechariah 13** people try to flee Jerusalem. Only 1/3 make it, 2/3 or destroyed. The 1/3 will be **kept secure** in a place **Rev.12:6-17** tells us.

d) The word **taken** is not referring to *the rapture*, **but** will be taken **in judgment**.

(1) As the reference he gave with both **Noah** & **Lot**, the people were **taking away in judgment**.

³ Shepherd's Notes, pg.64.

2. RUN FOR YOUR LIFE ... or for *Salvation!*
3. Don't wait, don't hesitate; make the decision **now** before it's **too late**.
Delay could be fatal!
 - a) **Whoever tries to keep his life, by going back for his goods, will lose it.**⁴
4. (32) **Remember Lot's wife** - 1 of the shortest vss in the Bible.
 - a) Jesus is commanding us to **remember** someone whose name *we never knew!*
Nor anything she ever said or did is recorded in Scripture, **and yet** the Lord wants us to *remember her*.
 - b) The only thing to remember about her is that she was the one who "*looked back!*" [Looking back **i.e.** grieving over the imminent loss of her material comforts **and** high social position among her ungodly neighbors]
 - c) **Slide20b** 2 Cor.5:15 **And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.**
5. (33) **Brian how does this help me today? Slide20c** The **hope** of The Future Coming **affects present actions and values.**
 - a) *The life you save is the life you lose.* The life you, *clutch, hoard, guard, and play safe with* is in the end, **a life worth little to anybody, including yourself; and only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living.**
 - b) If we genuinely embrace **His sacrifice**, *you will joyfully embrace a sacrificial life.* (Erwin McManus)
 - (1) God's will for us is less about our comfort **than** it is about our **contribution.**
 - (2) God would never choose for us safety **at** the cost of **significance.**
 - (3) God created you so that your life would **count**, **not so** that you could count the days of your life.

⁴ Walvoord, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, pg.249.

H. Slide 21 JUDGMENT FOLLOWING THE 2ND COMING (34-37)

1. THE SEPARATION (34-36)

- a) **2 in a bed**: 1 taken the other left (34). **2 grinding grain**: 1 taken the other left (35)
2 working in a field: 1 taken, the other left (36).

(1) You could be so close to someone **and yet there will be an eternity of separation between you**. [whether family members or coworkers]

2. Some will be **taken** into judgment.

- a) In some parts of the world it will be **nighttime** (they'll be in bed).
 In other parts of the world it will be **daytime** (they'll be doing daily tasks).

b) The **taken away** means **taken away to Judgment**. **Not** taken up in the Rapture.

(1) **The ones left are those who will enter into the kingdom.**

(2) The **sheep** were told, **Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

(3) The **goats** were told, **depart from Me you cursed.**

3. THE SLAUGHTER (37)

4. (37) The disciples then ask, **Where Lord?** ... where what?

- a) And then we're hoping that Jesus clears it all up, and he says **where the corpse is there the vultures will gather**. Thank you Jesus. I appreciate that.

(1) I'm just gonna start saying that when I want to **end a conversation**,
Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather ... praying for your brother.

5. When I was driving through **San Luis Obispo** this week, I saw a whole committee of **turkey vultures** (a dozen) sitting by the road side. **Which meant what?** There is a dead carcass somewhere nearby. (yep, deer)

- a) The question is **where does his judgment take place?** Answer is everywhere.
His judgment can come at anytime, anyplace, any day or night, while you are at home or school or at the office.

- I. There is a big difference between *the marriage supper of the Lamb* & *the supper of the Great God*. Rev.19:17,18 where an angel summons all birds to come eat of the carnage.
- J. **End:** In our country *we are innocent, until proven ... guilty*. **But** not so with God.
1. Because of the **fall**, because of **sin**, because we are **sinner by nature**, and **by choice**, we are all **guilty** until proclaimed **innocent**.
 2. **When you trust in Christ, that's all it takes**. He proclaims you **free and innocent**.
 3. So *the righteousness of religion* never cuts it, **but trusting in Jesus** does.
 4. Only 1 reason Jesus has not returned yet, **so you would be ready!**
Respond accordingly! Then you won't **face Him** as judge, **but** will **welcome Him** as **Savior**.

K. Keywords: sfdsd