

KEEP WATCH, JESUS WILL RETURN

Golden Text

“For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other” (Luke 17:24).

Useful Practice

The return of Jesus will be so sudden that there will be no chance for repentance and last-minute preparation.

Scripture Reading Luke 17. 24-30

24 - For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

25 - But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

26 - “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

27 - 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.

28 - “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

29 - But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 - “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

General objective

To show that Jesus assured that he will return once again to pick us up.

Specific objectives

- I To know** that the coming of Jesus will be sudden;
- II. To explain** that the coming of Jesus will be like Noah's day;
- III. To understand** that the whole earth is corrupted by sin;
- IV. To draw** a parallel between the days of Lot and our days.

Introduction

Jesus, very often, warned about the sudden nature of his coming. Still, it can be seen without much effort, that most believers are careless, entangled with the affairs of life and do not prepare for that great moment when Jesus will return. That is what we will see in the study of this lesson. God has spoken not only by his Word, but through the signs of the coming of Jesus, that the time is coming. Are you ready?

I - THE COMING OF JESUS WILL BE SUDDEN

1. Like lightning. Jesus did not declare the hour or the exact moment when his Church will be raptured. But he said: "People will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them" (Luke 17:23). In view of this warning, we can only pray to God and keep watch, so that we will not be left behind at the return of Jesus and that we will not be confused, because many false Christs will arise, trying to deceive believers and even unbelievers. We need to have discernment to not be deceived, for we are living in difficult times when many are preaching a pseudo-gospel.

2. Like a thief. "But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into" (Mt 24:43). In order for your residence not to be broken into and for your family to be safe, you keep the gates and doors tightly closed, especially at night. Some people also put bars on their windows. Many invest heavily by using sophisticated surveillance cameras and alarm systems. This is all because we do not know at what hour the thief can attack our family and steal our goods, or even take our life or that of a loved one. Just as we protect our house with cameras and alarms from thieves, we need to protect our spiritual life from the attacks of the Enemy. How can we protect ourselves spiritually? By

reading, meditating and obeying the Word of God, by praying, seeking sanctification and participating in the fellowship with the saints. Be prepared and safe for the coming of Jesus, do not neglect his "spiritual house"

II – JUST AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

1. People were eating and drinking (Luke 17:27). Eating and drinking are God-given instincts. No one can survive without food or water. There is nothing wrong with eating and drinking, but the wrong thing is about letting the affairs of this world take the first place in our hearts, forgetting about God and being unwatchful as to the coming of Jesus Christ. When referring to the days of Noah, Jesus was showing that on the day of his coming life will go on normally, without any prior notice. On this glorious day, people will be doing their daily tasks, working, studying, going to church, buying, trading, etc., when they will be surprised by the return of Jesus, just as in the days before the Flood. For years, Noah had preached that the Flood would come. He spoke of flood at a time when people did not know rain yet, that is why many did not believe and mocked him, but the day of the Flood came. The wicked were destroyed and only Noah and his family were saved from the Flood waters (Gen. 6:13 - 8:22). Let us do as Noah did, proclaiming God's justice and judgment, because Jesus will come soon.

2. "Marrying and being given in marriage" (Luke 17:27). Marrying and forming a family are designs of God for human beings. He said, "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). God wants human well-being and marriage contributes to this. However, many are so involved with their spouses and children that they forget that we are just passing through this world and that the Day of the Lord will come. Once again Jesus is saying that on the day of his coming, people will be doing their daily tasks, when they will be surprised, as it was in the days preceding the Flood.

III - GENERALIZED CORRUPTION ON EARTH

1. The whole earth was corrupt and violent. "Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways" (Genesis 6:11, 12). There was no city on earth in which wickedness and depravity had not arrived. Nowadays, just as in the days of Noah, violence has reached frightening levels. According to research agencies, Brazil

has 10% of homicides in the world; every year, 50,000 people are murdered, most of them being young people aged 15-24 years old; 45,000 die from traffic violence. Certainly, violence and moral corruption are signs of Jesus' return. The church must pray more for our country and the nations (2 Chronicles 7:14). Faced with the imminent return of Jesus, we cannot stand still, waiting, with our arms folded, for it all to happen and for people to die and suffer without salvation. We must, as Christians, do our part, by taking the message of salvation and living as "salt" and "light" in the midst of the world that is "dying".

2. God's judgment on the generalized corruption. God decided to destroy all mankind through the Flood (Genesis 6:5-7). By his mercy, God preserved Noah, his family and the animals, saving them in the ark. After Jesus' return, there will be terrible judgment upon the wicked (2 Thessalonians 1:8,9). Today, many Christians do not pray or keep watch. It is a sign that the main thing, in the life of the believer, is being neglected. But the Scriptures warn: "Pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Mt 25:13; 24:42).

IV – JUST AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF LOT

1. Days of intense corruption. "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building" (Luke 17:28). Lot was a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7,8) who lived in a wicked city called Sodom. In Sodom and in neighboring cities, homosexuality was a common practice. On one occasion, the Bible says that the city's men attacked the house of Lot wanting to abuse the angels who were sent there by the Lord. Those perverted men thought the angels were participating in a party (Gen. 19:15; 13:13; 18:20,21). The sin would be punished, but God would not destroy the wicked together with the righteous. The Lord showed great patience with Lot and his family, helping them to leave the city before its destruction. The day of God's judgment came for the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah at a time they did not expect. Life followed its normal course, when God rained brimstone and fire destroying those cities suddenly and forever (Gen 18:20,21; 19:24; Dt 29:23; 2 Peter 2:6). Lot's wife, while escaping, decided to look back and was petrified (Genesis 19:26). Jesus once warned: "Remember Lot's wife!" (Luke 17:32). The heart of Lot's wife was set on her city, on her material possessions. May our hearts not be set on the things of this world - houses, cars, achievements, etc - but on the things of God, for on the great day of the Lord we will not take anything from this world.

2. Global corruption. The "times of Lot" are emblematic and a sign for

the days we live in. Recently, the Supreme Court of the United States, a nation where most people call themselves Christians, passed "gay marriage" and so-called evangelical churches, agreeing to this practice, give full support to this kind of union considered "an abomination to the Lord" (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13). In Brazil, the National Human Rights Plan (PNDH-3) wants to ensure "labor and social security rights of sex workers". This means that, in the official program, the government will consider prostitution as a professional activity.

3. The destruction of the family. In Brazil, we have seen a number of projects whose goal is to put an end to the biblical model of Christian family. It is the devil who is behind these projects, because his goal is to destroy the traditional family, consisting of father, mother and children, as God instituted: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Gen. 1:27; 2:24).. The diabolical "gender ideology" that has been disseminated across our nation, teaches that a human being at birth has no defined sex, that is, it is neither male nor female. They wrongly refer to it as "gender neutral". This is clear evidence that iniquity is multiplying overwhelmingly, which makes the "countdown" sound to the Apocalypse.



Never in history, mankind has been so faraway from God. Even with so many religions, most of the seven billion people in the world not only disbelieve God, but defy him in open rebellion against His law and His principles. The tendency is not to improve, but to get worse, to the point of surpassing, in intensity, the moral corruption of Noah's and Lot's days. May God keep us under his mighty hand, preserving us in holiness for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.