

JESUS PREPS US FOR JUDGMENT DAY

SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction

2 Peter 3:4 (NLT) – (Scoffers) will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? ... everything has remained the same since the world was first created.”

1. Jesus helps us trust in His knowledge of the future.

Luke 21:33 – Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Luke 21:5-6 - ...some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, (Jesus said) 6 “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

Luke 21:9-11 - 9 And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.” 10 Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

Mark 13:19a-20 (NIV84) - ...those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now – and never to be equaled again. 20 If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive...

2. Jesus helps us be ready to face trials when they come.

Luke 21:8 - 8 And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. (See 1 John 2:18.)

Luke 21:12-19 – 12 ... they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness. 14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. 17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Acts 6:15 (NIV84) – All ... in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

3. Jesus helps us by building our hope.

Luke 21:25-31 - 25 “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” 29 And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Purposeful reflecting...

- Spend two to five minutes in silence reflecting the return of Jesus.

Experience

What emotions surfaced as you reflected on the Lord's return? How do your emotions match the ones you think God wants you to have?

- Can you remember a time when your positive expectations helped you get through a difficult situation or season? How might that experience apply to what Jesus promises about the future?

Transform

- Read 2 Peter 3 slowly, out loud. What ideas jump out at you? What emotions surface? What, if any, changes does the passage suggest for your own life and attitude?
- Can you think of a practical way of keeping the return of Jesus more prominent in your day-to-day life? Is that something you're willing to start doing?

Share

- Ask a Christian friend the questions under the “Experience” section, then tell him or her how you answered them. Let the conversation develop naturally from there. Make sure you listen carefully. Avoid the temptation to defend your beliefs, but humbly and honestly answer any questions you may be asked.
- Ask a non-Christian friend what he or she knows and thinks about the promised return of Jesus. (Observe any differences between the way Christians and non-Christians view reality.) Again, make sure you listen carefully. Avoid the temptation to defend your beliefs, but humbly and honestly answer any questions you may be asked.

TRANSLATION KEY: UNLESS NOTED, ALL VERSES ARE FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION. NLT = NEW LIVING TRANSLATION. NIV84 = NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, 84 ED.