

October 1st, 2017
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: The Days of Noah
Sermon #6 Title: The Day of the Days
Sermon #6 Text: (Luke 17:31-37)

Introduction: Let's finish where we started -

After the Lord has explained to the disciples about the world culture during the time of His return, He gives them the application.

- This isn't merely information to know in order to satisfy some religious curiosity – this is information that demands an application. It is not merely interesting information, it is practical instruction, and direction.

- He never wants us to “know good, for no good.”

- As the Lord applies Yesterday's trouble to tomorrow's conditions, there are 3 plain truths intended for us to respond to.

#1 – Time is of the Essence – vs 31

“In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.”

*Note – To unpack this verse, there are two striking elements that immediately stand out . . .

A. *The Period of Danger* – “In that day”

- 1.) The entirety of the conversation Jesus had beginning in verse 20 has been about 2nd Coming of the Lord Himself, and the end of man's secular dominion on planet earth.

a.) that day is both literal and figuratively encompassing.

*Note – It is a Day of “Days” – it is a Period or window of time in which the moment of Christ's return will take place.

*Note – Now that has been the primary issue in this conversation, which has been about “when.”

*Note – (Now while the Pharisees, the Jews, and the Disciples wanted to know about the When, Jesus answered them with an explanation of societal conditions –and said that's when.)

*Note – *But that is not the primary point of this verse, the primary point of this verse expresses the Pace of Urgency required to survive this period of time, and the moment to come.*

B. The Pace of Urgency – “he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.”

- 1.) Jesus directed those who would hear this to have an “immediate response” to that window and period of time.

*Note – Now the Bible teaches us that “Today is the day of Salvation, and that is always the day.” – What Jesus amplifies here is the heightened urgency to respond to the Lord that will exist in this period of time.

a.) Much like Paul's expression in Romans 13:13-14 – “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the

works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”

*Note – Now Paul was speaking to people who are saved, Jesus was appealing to those who aren’t saved – BOTH are to hear and understand how Imminent the Danger of delay is.

- Not only in the meantime, but especially in that time!

*Note – When Jesus preached this message in Matthew 24, He said in verse 39 – “And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

- Procrastination is NOT Protection

- Delay is not a Defense

The writer of Hebrews, who I think a good possibility is that it’s Luke posed the rhetorical question to his audience in Hebrews 2:3 – “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”

- the answer is simple – You do not escape!

*Note – The very first lesson that we should learn from knowing about the Days of Noah, and the Days of Lot, is that Time is of the essence!

#2 – Treasures Unveil the Evidence –

*Note – Jesus explained to us in Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” – And there is nothing that will tell that tale, then what you reach for in an emergency.

(We all know the illustrations about when your house catches fire you grab what is important and get out.)

- When it comes to your eternal fate, there is no greater emergency.

- The picture that Jesus paints here is that the Trouble in the Tribulation puts a man or a woman right between What they Love, and What He’s said – and when the judgments begin to fall, your treasure will unveil your heart.

*Note – Now look at how Jesus applies this lesson – “Remember Lot’s wife.”

- There are two things being unveiled in your life at the premise that Jesus is coming:

A. Where the Stuff in the House Ranks

1.) “he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away.”

- Note the picture:

a.) the man on the housetop

*Note – It was a common, ordinary, way of life for homes to have flat rooves with stairs or ladders going up the side. The top of their houses were like our “utility rooms.” – they dried clothes, food, in the sun, they put storage jars, and things of the like on top – It was a normal way to live.

b.) the stuff in the house

(1.) skyoo-os

- vessels, or

implements

*Note – This was the common reference for their food utensils, cooking vessels, and necessary implements for every day life.

*Note – Then, these things were extremely valuable and not always easily replaceable...

c.) an immediate awareness of that “day”.

*Note – Specifically, Jesus is talking about that moment in the end of the Great Tribulation period when the Son of Man is revealed from heaven for all the world to see.

*Note – Generally and practically – that moment of awareness that judgement is imminent.

*Note – Now hear the Lord's instruction – "immediate abandonment of all affections to material possessions"

*Note – Now in the Tribulation Period, this moment will separate the True Saints, from the Pseudo-Saints. –
The True saints will only have eyes for Jesus, with no affection or attachment to the material possessions of life.

*Note – But preacher, - we're not in that emergency yet. –
- Listen, Jesus tells them to do in an emergency what He expects them to do all the time!
- He directs them to do in the End, what He's called us to do for all time!

*Note – Materialism is not only a spiritual sin, it can be a life threatening danger, and on "that day it will be."
- What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

*Note – Now not only does this day warn us against Where the Stuff in the House Ranks . . . but How the State of the Heart is Ruled

B. How the State of the Heart is Ruled

1.) "Remember Lot's wife."

*Note – We notice 2 verses from Genesis 19.

19:17 – "And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

19:26 – "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

*Note – When it comes to Lot's wife, we don't know, what we don't know. – which ultimately is WHY she looked back . . . just that she did – turn and look back at a burning, dying, Judged Sodom and Gomorrah –

*Note – The Instructions given her were #1 – Practical. – Run straight and don't look back, or you won't make it out of the destruction zone.

The instructions given her were #2 – Spiritual – There was nothing more worthy of her affection in Sodom and Gomorrah than what affection she should have had for the Lord delivering her.

- When Lot's wife turned around and looked back at Sodom – it was a moment that revealed her heart was not exclusively and purely set on the Lord delivering her.

Men have often speculated –

#1 – She longed for her home, and turned around for one last look. . . .

#2 – She, like the man on the housetop wanted her stuff, or her goods . . .

#3 – Out of morbid curiosity she turned to witness the destruction . . .

#4 – She loved her son-in-laws, and friends, and couldn't help but to turn and watch them be judged....

*Note – And on, and on with the speculations as the reason she turned around . . . that wasn't the point

In all of existence, from one end of heaven to the other, from the depths of the sea to farthest of stars, from the east to the west and the north to south, -
THERE WAS NO GOD GIVEN reason to turn around.

Lot's wife turned around, because whatever her reason, the reason is that, in the middle of judgment, with eyes wide open, and deliverance in front of her, her will was still ruled by her nature, and not by His Word.

What we treasure, unveils the evidence of the true state of our hearts! – And when Time is of the Essence, and the Pressure rises, your treasures come straight to the top.

#3 – Trust Reveals the Consequence

Vs 33 – tells the final tale, and is the final arbiter of the evaluation of man or woman's heart. – Whether you trust the Lord, or you do not.

*Note – There are two, and only two possible decisions in response to what the Lord has explained to us.

A. It reveals those who are Destroying their Lives

1.) "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it..."

a.) the problem here is not the desire to have life, or to have a safe life, or to have a saved life . . .

b.) the problem here is the one who insists on being in charge of themselves . . . who insists on staying in control . . . who insists on doing a better job than the Lord . . . or who insists on being equal, and just as right as the Lord . . .

*Note – Those who do not TRUST the Lord with their lives . . . for whatever reason they want to muster up – will lose it.

(on that day in the Tribulation period, there will be those who "can handle it themselves . . ." just as there is in our day . . . and the Lord said, they shall LOSE their very lives.)

B. It reveals those who are Devoted to the Lord.

*Note – But the Lord doesn't just speak of the doom of destruction, He speaks of the blessing in Devotion

1.) "Whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it..."

a.) the one and only and exclusive way was not for the man on the housetop to say, "I sure do believe Jesus is who He says He is . . ." It was not for Lot's wife to say . . . I sure do agree, that we have to keep moving forward" – Neither one of those rise to the level of trust!

b.) the one and only and exclusive way is for the man on the housetop to abandon his housetop without question, and run to Jesus – because He said so.

c.) the one and only and exclusive way for Lot's wife to be delivered from the judgment of Sodom was for her to totally abandon every affection, and every connection she had for that God condemned world, and run straight ahead – because He said so.

Conclusion:

Now what do you do with that? – That's the conclusion of the matter. Jesus has made it as plain and simple, cut and dried as anyone could possibly make – to keep control of your life, (that is your time, your talent, your treasures, and your will) is by definition – losing it. To give over control of your life, (that is your time, your talents, your treasures, and your will) is by definition saving it. – Therefore – the choice is yours.