



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The Hope That Lets You Stand December 2, 2018

(Luke 21:25-36)

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² “I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

1. When you watch or read the news, do you usually feel more hopeful? Or hopeless? Share an example of a recent news story that made you feel one or the other.

2. According to the Parable of the Fig Tree that Jesus tells in verses 29-31, in what ways are the “signs of the end times” that we see around us in the world actually beacons of hope for a Christian?
3. **Discuss:** When you hear descriptions of Judgment Day, do they make you afraid? Or at peace? Compare people’s reactions to the powerful signs that people will experience on earth when Christ returns (vs. 25-28). Why do you think there’s such a huge difference in the way people react to Judgment Day?
4. **Agree/Disagree:** “Jesus spoke these words 2,000 years ago, and the signs of the end times have been active on earth throughout this whole period of time. People of all ages have expected Jesus to come back during their life time, but he hasn’t. We really don’t need to act like Jesus’ return is going to be imminent.” Defend your answer.
5. Jesus discusses a few different ways that people can become “burdened” while they stand watch for Jesus’ return. Discuss how each of these can distract a person from watchfulness and preparation for Jesus’ return.
 - a. **Drunkenness**
 - b. **Dissipation**
 - c. **The anxieties of life**
6. How can people truly be prepared for Jesus’ return? How does vs. 33 serve as a formative verse for your answer, and for your life?