



World Christian Fellowship

www.wcflondon.com
wcflondon@gmail.com

Visible King and Invisible Kingdom

Luke 17:22-37

Luke 17:22-37, *Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. ²³ And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. ²⁴ For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. ²⁵ But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

³¹ *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life*

will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. ³⁶ Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”

³⁷ And they answered and said to Him, “Where, Lord?”

So He said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

The first phase of His Kingdom is spiritual, personal, internal. If you are not a part of that kingdom, you will never be a part of that external, worldwide, physical kingdom.

The internal, personal kingdom described by Jesus in verses 20 and 21.

The external, visible, manifest, earthly reign of the Lord Jesus Christ is been described following verses.

Jesus launches that second aspect in His Second Coming. It is crucial then to any understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus to major on the Second Coming.

It is the most important of all doctrines because it is the consummation of all doctrines. Every other doctrine, every other element in redemptive history ends up with the glorification of Christ in His kingdom, which is earthly and then

in its final phase eternal. You cannot minimize the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us come back to Luke 17:

Jesus teaches us about the nature of His coming in judgment.

1. Desired,
2. Visible,
3. Delayed,
4. Unexpected,
5. Revealing
6. Deadly.

1. Desired

Saints long before us longed for it since they haven't seen it yet. We are all under the altar, "How long, oh Lord, how long?"

2. Visible

It will be visible globally.

3. Delayed

His coming will be delayed. It will be delayed.

First, He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

4. Unexpected

This is not looking at the rapture of the church.

This is looking at the devastating return of Christ in judgment.

It is going to be lifelike it was in Lot's day.

Judgment like in Noah's day and Lot's day, and

Deliverance like in Noah's day and Lot's day.

5. Revealing

Destroyed on the brink of safety!

Lot's wife came close but she never could let go of the world.

She was that rocky soil, springs up for a little while but no true repentance there and it dies under pressure.

You hold onto the world, you hold on to sin, you keep what you want of this life and you will lose it forever in hell.

You give it up, which is what "lose your life" means, and forever you will gain all that heaven has.

6. Deadly

Jesus' coming will be divisive.

Divisive is not new.

Matthew 10:34-39, *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; ³⁶ and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Jesus said He came not to bring peace but a sword, to set children against their parents and parents against their children and siblings against siblings and husbands against wives, and wives against husbands.

It is a divisive thing to come to Christ.

It is the most devise thing because you live in two completely,

- different worlds,
- different loves and
- different motivations.

That is true now.

Some of you experience that every day of your life because

- You are alienated from your own children.
- You are alienated from your own spouse.
- You are alienated from your own parents.
- You are alienated from the friends and the people you associate.

You are terminally alienated and eternally alienated because you are in Christ and they are not.

You possess eternal life and they do not have.

The price you got to pay for your commitment to Christ is the loss of that intimacy to a very significant and serious degree.

V 34, *I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.*

When Jesus come,
when the event occurs, it will be night on half the earth.

Probably referring to a married couple, one taken and the other left.

V 35, *Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.*

There will be two grinding at the same place.

This is in daytime because you do your grinding in a world with no electricity in the daylight when you are making bread.

So somewhere in the world it will be night when He comes, somewhere in the world it will be day because it is global. There will be two grinding at the same place, two sisters, a mother, and a daughter. One will be taken, the other will be left.

V 36, *Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.*"

Two men will be in the field working, again it would be daytime, one will be taken and the other will be left.

We have people taken and people left.

What does it mean to be taken?

What does it mean to be left?

Taken where?

Left where?

Matthew 24:37-41, *But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the*

field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

The Flood took them all away in judgment.

The Son of Man in judgment is to take them away in judgment. Some will be working in the field and one will be taken out of that field in judgment.

Two women grinding at the mill one taken means they escaped judgment.

They are left then to go into the kingdom.

The Flood took people away in the sense of destruction and that there will be some taken in judgment when the Lord returns, and others will be left.

“Taken” means taken, just as in the case of the judgment of Noah, into judgment and eternal damnation.

“Left” means left alive on the earth to enter the kingdom, left alive on earth to enter into the kingdom.

Out of a bed, one will go, and one will be left.

Out of a kitchen, one will go, and one will be left.

Out of a field, one will go, and one will be left.

It will be divisive and it's showing people working together in proximity to show you that this happens in the most intimate settings of family because life in those days was family life, fields, kitchens, beds.

So, it will be divisive and this time it will be eternally divisive, everlastingly divisive. They will be separated forever, never to be joined together again.

This separation is also described in a parable in Matthew 13 **Matthew 13:24-30**, *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.²⁶ But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.²⁷ So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "*

At the end of the harvest the separation takes place, the wheat, the tares are separated.

The tares are burned, and the wheat is preserved.
Same picture.

There are only two kinds of people in the Second Coming,

- those that are burned and those that are barned,
- those that are taken in judgment and those that are left to enter the kingdom.

Our Lord talked about this in another parable.

Matthew 25:31-46, *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ³⁷“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer*

and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'
⁴¹ *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*
⁴⁴ *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'* ⁴⁵ *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'* ⁴⁶ *And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

A story about sheep and goats.

A word picture of final judgment.

- ❖ The sheep represent those who are left to go into the kingdom.
- ❖ The goats represent those who are taken away in judgment.

- Put the goats on His left hand,
- Put the sheep on My right hand.

Right hand being the hand of favour.

- The righteous go into the kingdom,
- The unrighteous go into judgment and eternal destruction.

So, this division will come right down into families, households, beds, and it is forever.

Matthew 24:43-44, *But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

Nobody knows the day or the hour when all this is going to begin.

It all begins with the rapture of the church, then the judgments begin to unfold, then they escalate.

Then in a day and an hour no one knows, Jesus will come back. We do not know when it starts, and we do not even know the exact time when it finds its end.

Best to be prepared for one other reason.

The Second Coming is desired, visible, delayed, unexpected, revelatory, and divisive.

Conclusion:

It is permanently fatal.

There is a finality to this judgment.

V 37, *And they answered and said to Him, "Where, Lord?"*

So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

These would be the disciples to whom He has been speaking!

V 22, *Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it."*

Where the location of this event?

They are still thick about getting the picture of its global reality.

Where?

How are we going to know where?

They still think it's going to happen, and somebody is going to have to point them to it.

They still do not understand that it will be global, it will be visible.

When it happens, nobody will miss it.

The whole earth will be involved.

They are still asking to Jesus “Where is this going to take place Lord?”

Jesus answers.

Jesus gives them a Jewish proverb.

"Where the body is, there also will vultures be gathered."

If you have a carcass, you are going to have vultures.

That is a strange answer.

Jesus is pointing to you always know where the corpses are because you look for the vultures. Wherever the vultures are, that is where the corpses are.

That is how it is going to be in My coming. Wherever the vultures hover, that is where I have been.

That is how He ends this message.

Wherever the carnage is, wherever the dead lie, spiritually dead yes, but physically dead, too, in judgment.

Wherever the bodies of the unregenerate lie all over the world, wherever the corpses are, that is where I have been.

You say, "This doesn't say anything about the kingdom. This doesn't say anything about the glory of the Millennial Kingdom."

There will not be any Millennial Kingdom for people who do not come to Christ and who are not warned about judgment.

The Jews thought they were going to be in the kingdom just because they were Jewish.

They were sons of Abraham and they were circumcised. That was the standard fare and then to add to that they were very ceremonially religious.

But Jesus is saying, while you are thinking about the kingdom, you may not even be in the Kingdom. You cannot be in the kingdom if you get caught in the judgment and you are going to be caught in the judgment if you reject the Son of Man.

How far and wide is that judgment?

It is worldwide.

Wherever the carcasses are, that is where Jesus have been.

When Jesus comes it is death to the ungodly.

Nobody says it more concisely than Jude.

Jude 1:14-15, *Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all*

the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

He comes to judge the ungodly and the carnage is worldwide.

Jesus wants to move them from this joyful idea of the coming of the Messiah to a terrifying reality that before there is going to be a kingdom, there is going to be irreversible judgment and destruction.

Seeing that all these things are coming to pass, what manner of persons should you be?

What kind of person do you want to be when this comes?

Where do you want to be?

You want to be cast into eternal hell?

You want to be part of the everlasting carnage?

Or do you want to be in the kingdom?

Those that are alive at this time will go into the kingdom alive.

Those of us who have already gone on to heaven are going to come back with Christ.

In Revelation 19 we are pictured coming with Him and we will reign with Him in the kingdom as glorified saints along with earthly saints together reigning in that glorious kingdom for 1,000 years at the end of which He creates a new heaven and a

new earth where we live forever in the glory of that eternal heaven.

What kind of person are you?

What happens to you if this judgment begins today, or tomorrow?

It all starts with the Lord removing the church.

They are going to go on with life the way they always did.

Noah got in the ark and nobody changed anything.

Lot left town and nobody changed anything.

The church is going to leave.

There will be all kinds of explanations, and the judgments will begin, and sinners' hearts will get harder and harder.

They will curse God.

They will wave their fists at Him.

They will cry for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and to crush them and hide them.

But you do not see any of them in Revelation crying out for salvation. There will be a great, massive, sweeping salvation during that time as the gospel will be preached, but there will also be hard-hearted rejection.