



friendship  
community church

Cleansing and Healing the Lepers

Luke 17:20-37

Week of March 29-April 4, 2020

Hosts - You are an important part of the discipleship ministry of FCC. We are grateful for you and praying for you as you prepare to host your group. If you are in need of anything, please let me know (615.403.3138; [paul@churchforyou.com](mailto:paul@churchforyou.com)). Your staff and elders are available as we have always been. Please do not allow yourself not to contact us if you are feeling anxious, overwhelmed or just want to talk. If you know of any needs within your group that we can help with, please contact us directly or via this email address <http://achurchforyou.com/contact/>

**As a reminder, If you are using Zoom to host your meeting you have 40 minutes of meeting time with the free account. Be careful to keep the group focused and moving along.**

Ask these questions to open up -

What are some ways that you were unprepared for this pandemic?

How will you be better prepared for the next one?

**Please read the entire passage out loud in your group – Luke 17:20-37**

*<sup>20</sup>Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, <sup>21</sup>nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."*

*<sup>22</sup>And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. <sup>23</sup>And they will say to you, 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them. <sup>24</sup>For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. <sup>25</sup>But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. <sup>26</sup>Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. <sup>27</sup>They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup>Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, <sup>29</sup>but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— <sup>30</sup>so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. <sup>31</sup>On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. <sup>32</sup>Remember Lot's wife. <sup>33</sup>Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. <sup>34</sup>I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. <sup>35</sup>There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left." <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."*

The "Now" and the "Not Yet" – as a reminder Luke is writing post-crucifixion and ascension. Luke is writing for the "now of his era" but also our now.

**Here are Michael's main points from the sermon this week –**

Jesus is addressing the Pharisees and saying -

**v. 20-21 "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed"**

- when Jesus comes again, it will be unexpected – Jesus mentions it again to the disciples in Acts 1:6-8 (also penned by Dr. Luke) *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this*

time restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Ask if someone has an example of an instance where they were caught off guard?

**v. 22-25 – "look there . . . look here"** - Jesus focuses on the disciples here and Jesus wants the disciples to understand that Jesus came once and was foretold for thousands of years before His first coming on earth and many missed Him. His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming will be known by all. It will not be hidden or coded – it will be unmistakable. But it will not be predictable and we will not know the exact timing.

Sometimes we rely on past experience to help us not get caught off guard again. Jesus is basically saying, "You will be caught off guard and everyone will know I am Jesus."

### **v. 26-37 - Noah, Lot, the city of Sodom and our future**

- Noah builds an ark without ever seeing rain for himself. The world was still going about its norm right up to the flood. And yet the flood came swiftly.

- Lot and the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah – Lot's wife takes a peek back after being told not to do so and she is turned into a pillar of salt. It was instantaneous. Disobedience is costly. Judgment is swift without a warning.

They were taken from judgment. They were saved – Noah and his family, Lot and his family (minus his wife after she looked back/disobeyed), so the vultures are an illustration of the judgment.

How will you be better prepared?

**When Jesus Comes:** (He is coming again to establish His kingdom.)

- There is no warning.
- There is no doubt. (for the saved and the unsaved)
- There is no hiding.
- There are no more second chances.

Until you die or Christ comes again, you cannot out sin God's grace, **but when Jesus comes again, there will be no more grace extended. Our time is up.**

### **Jesus readiness checklist –**

- Confess your sin and need.
- Be baptized into the family. (there is nothing saving about baptism but it is a beautiful picture of what God has done in your life. Baptized both into the global and local family of believers.)
- Surrender all of your life – (an initial surrender to Christ and then continual surrender as God reveals more of the sin in your life that is not like Him) You surrender for your own sake but also as an example of loving grace for others. Our sin can injure others.

Ask, What is one thing that you are realizing you need to surrender that you are struggling to give up?

- Live in confident hope because we are secure in the One Who is always faithful. Don't horde the good news of Jesus or the gifts He has given.

*Romans 11:22 GNT - Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.*

**How will you continue in His kindness today/this week?**