

Christ Teaches on the Second Coming

Luke 17:28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 2

Judgment came suddenly, destroying people in the midst of their everyday activities. Genesis 19:24 Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. :25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.12

None of the things Jesus cited with regard to Noah's day or Lot's day were inherently sinful. But people were so absorbed in the things of this life that they were utterly unprepared when the time of judgment came.22

Luke 17:29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 1

On the very day that Lot, his wife and daughters went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed the wicked city. So will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. Those who concentrate on pleasure, self-gratification, and commerce will be destroyed.1

Luke 17:31 "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.

Luke 17:33 Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Luke 17:34 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."

Luke 17:37 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." 1

The location of a carcass is visible from great distances because of the circling carrion birds overhead (cf. Job 39:27–30). Similarly, Christ's return will be clearly evident to all near and far..1

Parable of the Woman and the Judge

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 1

A common theme in Paul's epistles, in light of the afflictions and hardships of life, and the evidence of approaching judgment.....1

Luke 18:2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 1

This man was thoroughly wicked. Christ described him as "unrighteous" (v. 6)—like the manager in 16:8. The judge is not given as a symbol of God, but rather in contrast to Him. If such an unrighteous man would respond to persistent pleas, would not God, who is not only just, but also loving and merciful, do so more readily?1

Luke 18:3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

Luke 18:4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, :5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

Luke 18:6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 1

I.e., listen to the point of the story, namely, that God, who always does right and is filled with compassion for believers who suffer, will certainly respond to His beloved ones who cry for His help (v. 7).¹

Luke 18:7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" ³

He may delay long, but He does so for good reason and when He acts, His vengeance is swift. ¹³

....**Will He find faith.** This suggests that when He returns, the true faith will be comparatively rare—as in the days of Noah (17:26), when only 8 souls were saved. ²³

The period before His return will be marked by persecution, apostasy, and unbelief. ³³

Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ³

This parable is rich with truth about the doctrine of justification by faith. It illustrates perfectly how a sinner who is utterly devoid of personal righteousness may be declared righteous before God instantaneously through an act of repentant faith. ¹³

The parable is addressed to Pharisees who trusted their own righteousness (vv. 10, 11). Such confidence in one's inherent righteousness is a damning hope. Support scriptures....Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. :4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; :10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,²³

Scripture consistently teaches that sinners are justified when God's perfect righteousness is imputed to their account and it was only on that basis that this tax collector (or anyone else) could be saved.³³

Luke 18:10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

Luke 18:12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' ¹

This was more than is required by any biblical standard. By exalting his own works, the Pharisee revealed that his entire hope lay in his not being as bad as someone else. He lacked any sense of his own unworthiness and sin.¹

Luke 18:13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ³

The tax collector's humility is notable in everything about his posture and behavior. ¹³

Here was a man who had been made to face the reality of his own sin, and his only response was abject humility and repentance. ²³

He contrasts with the Pharisee in virtually every detail. **God, be merciful.** He had no hope but the mercy of God. This is the point to which the law aims to bring every sinner.³³