

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 30, 2008

Passage: Luke 17:20-37

Memory Passage: Matthew 6:19-21

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:20-21.** What is the kingdom of God ((Mark 1:15; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 1:1-8; Rom 14:16-17)? What does Jesus say about its coming in verse 20? Why do you think the Pharisees wanted to know when the kingdom was coming?
- (b) Are their signs that can be observed with the kingdom of God? What is the danger in looking for signs (Matthew 6:34; Philippians 4:6)?
- (c) Where is the kingdom of God? The NIV and KJV have verse 21 translated “the kingdom of God is within you.” Why would this be impossible in light of whom Jesus is talking to? What does it mean that the kingdom of God is in their midst (John 3:5; 18:36; Romans 14:17)?
- (d) *Think about it:* What are some things that you are anxious about? Are you content in where God has you right now? Are you wanting to have all the answers? The kingdom of God is still in our midst through the Holy Spirit. Are you satisfied with resting in what He has for you today?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:20-21. Talk about what the kingdom of God is. What did the Pharisees want to know about the kingdom? Why do you think they wanted to know that? Are you happy with the way things are around you? What does Jesus say in response? Are you satisfied in resting in what God has for you today? Pray that the Lord would help you to remember to be content with today and to rest in His presence.

### DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:22-25.** Who is Jesus speaking to in this passage? Why will they desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man? What kind of statement is this? Is it ominous? Will the disciples see one of the days of the son of Man?
- (b) What statement does Jesus repeat from just a few verses earlier? Who are the people that will say “look here”?
- (c) How does Jesus describe the day of the Son of Man? What aspect of the day does this describe? Was there any warning? What does this teach us about speculating when Jesus will return? Is Jesus warning us not to speculate on His second coming? What prediction does Jesus make concerning what it is to happen first?
- (d) *Think about it:* Jesus essentially predicts that they will suffer and long for the day of His second coming. Do you find yourself in this position? Why or Why not? How should the fact that Jesus could return at any instant affect how you live? Jesus prophesied His suffering and death. Could you go through with what he went through knowing that it was coming? How does this affect how you look at your own life?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:22-25. Talk about the fact that Jesus could come back at any moment. Is this something that you look forward to or dread? Why? How does it affect you that Jesus willingly suffered and was rejected knowing his fate beforehand? Talk about the great sacrifice of Jesus and how we can anticipate His return because of what He has done for us. Pray that you would trust in the Lord for your struggles everyday and live in anticipation of His glorious return

### DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 17:26-30.** What two comparisons are being made in this section?
- (b) Read Genesis 6:11-13. What were the days of Noah like? What did God say he was going to do because of the people? Compare this with how the days of Noah are talked about in Luke. What is the focus of the people of Noah’s days?
- (c) Read Genesis 19:1-11. What was Sodom like in the days of Lot? Read Gen 19:12-28. What ended up happening to Sodom? What were the hearts of the people of Sodom turned to?
- (d) Read Romans 1:18-32. How does this passage compare to the previous two stories? What are the hearts of the people going to be like? Do we see this today? Has there been any period in history where we haven’t seen people like this?
- (e) *Think about it:* The comparison being made is concerning the judgment of sinful people who were not expecting it. Do you think people expect there to be judgment right now? What attitude should we have in light of such a judgment? What should our relationship with this world be like? Are we to be consumed with the day-to-day affairs of this world? Where are your priorities today?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 17:26-30. Tell the story of Noah (Gen 6). Talk about why God brought judgment upon the people. Talk about how God is going to bring judgment again. Were people expecting judgment? Are you ready for judgment? Read

Isaiah 53:4-12. Talk about Jesus and what he has done to take our iniquity. Have you received God's forgiveness? Pray that you would be ready for Jesus' return by keeping yourself focused on Him and not on earthly things.

**DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Luke 17:31-33.** What day is he talking about in verse 31(1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)? What is the person on top of the house not to go and get? What is the person in the field not to go and do? Why?

(b) What happened to Lot's wife (Genesis 19:17, 26)? Why would you turn back and look? Why did Lot's wife turn back?

(c) What does Jesus mean by keeping your life? How does the first part of verse 33 coincide with the two previous verses? Read Matthew 6:19-21. How does this passage apply to our passage? Where are we to place our desires and love according to the passage in Matthew?

(d) *Think about it:* What are some areas of your life that you would have problems leaving behind? Home? Family? Things? Do you have areas of your life that compete with your affections for the Lord? Sometimes things that are good like family, home, and even church can become more important than the Lord. Make a list of these things and Read Romans 12:1-2. Give those things over to the One who truly has control.

(e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:31-33 and Matthew 6:19-21. How are we to look at the things of this world? Look at letter (d). Talk about it together. Talk about what things that you have trouble recognizing as temporary. What competes for your heart? Pray that the Lord would give you one pure and holy passion for Him!

**DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Luke 17:34-37.** What most likely is the relationship between the two people? What most likely is the relationship between the two women who are grinding meal together?

(b) One is taken and the other is left. Who does the one who is taken represent (Acts 1:10-11)? Who then does the one left behind represent?

(c) What are the disciples asking Jesus in verse 37(Luke 17:23)? Do the disciples want to know where the judgment is going to take place? What does Jesus' answer mean? If one sees vultures circling in the distance, what does that normally mean? Is it easy to see the vultures? What would this imply about the ease of seeing when the judgment comes?

(d) *Think about it:* What would it mean for one friend to be taken and the other not? Would this not imply that one person believed in Christ and the other didn't? What are you talking about with your loved ones and your friends? How sure are you of the people you love's salvation? Who is someone that you need to share the gospel with this week? Don't know how? Give Jim or Hunter a call.

(e) *Family:* Read Luke 17:34-37. Talk about lost people who are close friends or family. Spend some extended time praying for them and talking about how you might invite them to church or share the gospel with them.

**DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE**

(g) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 17:20-37. What stands out as the most poignant lesson from the week? Have you ever found yourself predicting the near end of the world? When could Jesus come back? According to our passage, is his return any more immanent today as it was yesterday? What changes might you need to make in light of Christ's immanent return?

**DATE:** November 30, 2008

**PASSAGE:** Luke 17:20-37

*The Coming of the Kingdom*  
"The one will be taken and the other left"