

Sermon Series: Luke 21:5-38 Grace to Stand When the World Is Falling

Sermon Text: Luke 21:34-38 The Grace of Prayer

Christ calls us to prayer as a means of grace to guard against lethargy and to strengthen us to stand before Him.

1) Christ calls us to prayer as a means of grace (21:36).

- a) "Praying" is the means of "staying awake at all times."
- b) Prayer is a means of grace to receive good gifts from a generous Heavenly Father (Luke 11:9-13).
- c) Prayer and God's Sovereignty: "If God has already foreordained whatsoever comes to pass, why pray?"

2) Christ calls us to prayer to guard against lethargy (21:34).

- a) Lethargy—"hearts be weighed down":
 - i) "with dissipation and drunkenness"—indulgence; lack of discipline/self-control; "fat sheep" (Ezek. 34:20); "a people laden with iniquity" (Isa. 1:4)
 - ii) "with cares of this life"—daily routines most dangerous because they are so familiar
- b) The Danger—"that day come upon you suddenly like a trap"
 - i) Context: Caught off guard when Rome besieges Jerusalem
 - ii) Lesson: Warning against being caught off guard by God's judgments (cf. Luke 17:26-30)
- c) **Application:** "Stay alert stay alive."

3) Christ calls us to prayer to strengthen us to stand before Him (21:35-36).

- a) "It will come"—the certainty of judgment (Jerusalem/Final)
- b) "all who dwell . . . whole earth"—the universality of judgment ("land" of Judah/globally)
- c) "escape"—not from all trouble, but from God's wrath (cf. 21:23)
- d) "to stand before the Son of Man"—Son of Man as representative of the saints of the Most High (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)
- e) **Application:**
 - i) True prayer requires humility.
 - ii) Adoration Confession Thanksgiving Supplication
 - iii) Praying Scripture
 - iv) Other aids to prayer: The Creeds; Valley of Vision prayers and meditations; hymns; Table Talk devotions
 - v) TIME MANAGEMENT
 - vi) Christ prays for us.

Doxology: I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. Psalm 116:1-2