

The Stories that Remain

The Road to the Cross

Pastor Craig Sweeney | March 17, 2024

Thread: Anticipation can cause distraction or determination.

Jesus lived in ANTICIPATION, and it ANCHORED Him.

Passage: Luke 17:20-18:8 NLT

“One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, ‘When will the Kingdom of God come?’

Jesus replied, ‘The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.’”

Luke 17:20-21 NLT

Jesus lived in ANTICIPATION, and it ANCHORED Him, so He knew who He was.

- Do you know who you are?

Jesus lived in ANTICIPATION, and it ANCHORED Him, so He knew His WHY.

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The time is coming when you will long to see the day when the Son of Man returns, but you won’t see it. People will tell you, ‘Look, there is the Son of Man,’ or ‘Here he is,’ but don’t go out and follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other, so it will be on the day when the Son of Man comes. But first the Son of Man must suffer terribly and be rejected by this generation.

“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came and destroyed them all.

“And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot. People went about their daily business—eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building— until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Yes, it will be ‘business as usual’ right up to the day when the Son of Man is revealed. ... Remember what happened to Lot’s wife! If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it.”

Luke 17:22-33 NLT

Jesus lived in ANTICIPATION, and it ANCHORED Him, so He could live surrendered.

- Do you have things needing to be surrendered?

“That night two people will be asleep in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour together at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.’

“‘Where will this happen, Lord?’ the disciples asked.

“Jesus replied, ‘Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.’

Luke 17:34-37 NLT

“...The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’

“Then the Lord said, ‘Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?’”

Luke 18:4-8 NLT

Jesus lived in ANTICIPATION, and it ANCHORED Him, so He could live as the kingdom of God.

- Where is your residency?

Luke 21:8-36 NLT

Don’t lose your nerve, you don’t need to.

Challenge:

- Do you know who you are?
- Do you know your why?
- Do you need to surrender anything?
- You are living in anticipation; does it distract you or anchor you deeper?

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