

# SERMON LISTENING WORKSHEET

**Date:** July 27, 2025

**Passage:** Luke 17:26-37

**Title:** The Return of the Son of Man

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## **What is this sermon about?**

The coming judgment of God.

## **What is it saying about it?**

The difference it should make in our lives right now.

## **What is the flow of the message?**

Luke 17 reveals a fundamental truth: God's coming judgment is a certain reality that should shape your daily life. While the idea of a judgment is often unpopular, it is a consistent theme throughout the Bible and a frequent teaching of Jesus.

This passage highlights a key problem: widespread spiritual apathy, or "sleep," regarding judgment. Jesus illustrated this with comparisons to the days of Noah and Lot: people lived normally—eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling, planting, building—and ignored warnings until judgment suddenly destroyed them. This historical pattern warns us: your disbelief in judgment will not affect God, but it will certainly affect you, leading to destruction if you are unprepared.

To fight this spiritual slumber and prepare for judgment, the passage outlines two essential steps:

1. First, beware of loving material possessions.
2. Second, cultivate a supreme love for Jesus.

The passage ends by restating Jesus's certain return as judge. It uses the vivid image of vultures gathering where a corpse lies, showing judgment will be obvious and unavoidable for all. The crucial question becomes: "Are you ready for it?" This readiness matters most, as for many, even religious people, it will be a "terrible day". However, the truth is: it doesn't have to be, because Jesus came the first time to take this judgment for sinners. For those who hope in Jesus, His return as judge is not a day of dread, but the fulfillment of every good thing they are longing for.

Given these truths, it's important to reflect on your spiritual state. Are you truly awake and ready for Jesus's return? Regularly evaluate your heart by asking: What do you truly value? What do you think about most? What are you most willing to sacrifice for? Take these warnings seriously; spiritual drift is a real danger. Actively fight the allure of material possessions that dull spiritual senses. Exercise your faith not just by acknowledging these truths, but by acting on them. Ask yourself what faith would do in your daily choices, and actively seek to make Jesus your supreme priority in every part of life. This active pursuit of Jesus and vigilance against spiritual slumber will ensure that when judgment comes, it will be a day of fulfillment, not fear. If you are not ready, run to Jesus now and ask him to change you, for He is a God who loves to answer such prayers.

### **What to be thinking about when leaving this sermon?**

- The Urgency of Judgment: The coming judgment of God is a definite, unavoidable reality that should fundamentally transform our perspective and daily lives, not just be a distant theological concept.
- The Danger of Spiritual Sleep (Apathy): It's easy to become spiritually numb, consumed by the ordinary affairs of life and the allure of material possessions, to the point of not being prepared or even being disappointed by Jesus's return.
- Prioritising Jesus Above All: True readiness for judgment comes from a heart that believes in and values Jesus more than anything else – more than possessions, comfort, or even physical survival. This requires constant evaluation, taking warnings seriously, and actively exercising faith in Him.

### **What are some discussion questions?**

1. The sermon notes that "judgment is many people's least favorite subject". Why do you think this is, and how might this prevalent attitude affect a Christian?
2. Jesus warns against living as people did in the days of Noah and Lot, who were engrossed in everyday activities despite impending judgment. What are some "normal" activities in your life that can distract you from spiritual readiness?
3. The love of material possessions is compared to a spiritual anesthesia that puts us to sleep. What do you think are some symptoms of falling asleep?
4. Jesus states, whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. What does losing your life for Jesus look like in practical terms for someone living in a context without direct physical persecution?
5. The sermon encourages regular self-evaluation of our hearts. What specific questions might be helpful to assess what you truly value and whether Jesus is your greatest priority?
6. The story of Lot's wife serves as a warning for religious people. What lessons can we learn from her longing for Sodom, and how can we apply this warning to prevent spiritual drift in our own lives?

### **What is your takeaway?**

### **IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION**

The pastors have a standing open office hour during lunch-time on Thursdays from 12-1. You can join via the Google Meet code in the bulletin.