

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #225

Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem Yearning for Jesus' Final Coming LK 17.22-25 (Repeated Text: MT 24.26-28)

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, *"The days are coming when you will keep yearning to see one of the days of the Son of Man--but you will not see it."*

23 *"People will say to you, 'Look! There he is!' or 'Here he is!' I command you not to go running off in pursuit of them."*

24 *"For as the lightning that flashes and lights up the sky from one horizon to the other, so will the son of man be in his day."*

25 *"But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation."*

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Somewhere on the Road to Jerusalem
Timeline	March (Month 38)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VII: Jesus' Ministry in Perea
	C. Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem
Title	3. Yearning for Jesus' Final Coming

COMMENT:

Today's reading begins a section of Luke (17.22-37) that closely resembles the "Olivet Discourse" in MT 24-25. This is another indication that Jesus often repeated his teachings in different settings, with different disciples.

The text also shows us that Jesus was looking ahead to the era after he had returned back to heaven, and his disciples would live on earth in union with him through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was training his disciples in anticipation of that future era, in which we continue to live today. Jesus began this section with the phrase that shows us this future orientation of his thinking: ***"The days are coming..."***

Because Jesus was looking ahead to the way his disciples would live after he returned to heaven, he knew that those who had known him in the flesh would miss him intensely after he returned to heaven. Jesus would later tell them that it was actually better for him to leave them physically, because his return to heaven would open up the indwelling ministry of the Spirit to them, which was superior to being with him in the flesh (JN 16.8-15).

Nonetheless, Jesus knew we would yearn to see his face, and hear his physical voice after he was gone. This is what he spoke about in this text.

The passionate yearning to see Jesus again could only be fulfilled when Jesus returns to the earth for the final time. So Jesus began to teach his disciples the most important truths about his final return. This text informed them (and us) of one key truth.

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #225

Though Jesus will return in his resurrection body to one place on earth (the Mt. of Olives, from which he would also depart for heaven after his resurrection), his return to this planet will be accompanied by a revelation of light in the sky that will simultaneously span the entire surface of the earth. In other words, everyone in the world will be confronted with the visible sign of his return--at the same time--all over the world. No one, and no place will be left out. There will be no doubt that Jesus has returned, due to the power of this accompanying sign.

Because the final return of Jesus will include this universal, visible signal, there will be no need to wonder if Jesus has come yet or not, nor to believe in the credibility of any reports of his return to one area, without the sign. False Messiahs will appear, and people will believe them, so the reports will occasionally go out: "Jesus is here! He is there!"

However, our Lord specifically commanded us NOT to believe those reports, because they will all be false. Jesus will ONLY return with accompanying universal sign of his arrival. We can count on the truth of what he promised.

Jesus also took the opportunity to remind his disciples that before he could go away to heaven, he first had to suffer for our sins, and rise again. Though they could not understand this teaching from Jesus, he gave it to them again anyway, because he knew that after the promised Holy Spirit came to live in them at Pentecost, he would remind them of what he had said about his death and resurrection. What the disciples could not accept now, they would come to fully believe in it later by the power of the Spirit as the very center of their faith. Again, Jesus was training his disciples in anticipation of a future relationship with them through his Spirit.

APPLICATION:

There is no portion of Jesus' teachings that are more misunderstood than what he promised and commanded regarding his final return. Adjusting our beliefs to match up with Jesus in this area will insure that we live as good managers of his resources and purposes until his final return. Misunderstanding these key teachings will mean that we are unproductive servants, who waste our time on pursuits that have nothing to do with Jesus' interests. We need to pay close attention to these teachings.

Do you know of any false Messiah alive today, who claims to be Jesus himself? There are actually many of them.

How will you pay closer attention to the teachings of Jesus about his return, so that you can avoid error and stand firm in his service until he comes?