

Sermon Outline on Mt. 24:36-44, Second Last Sunday of Trinity Season

Theme: THE COMING OF CHRIST WILL BE LIKE THE GREAT FLOOD

Introduction: The account of the Flood, Gen. 6-8, is well-known by Christians. It is also known by those who do not have the Bible. The account of the Flood has been preserved in the legends of all cultures. The Flood was both frightening and wonderful. The second coming of Christ will also be frightening and wonderful. Let us listen to our text.

I-THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WILL BE LIKE THE UNBELIEVERS OF NOAH'S TIME

- A-They ate and drank, married and were given in marriage. This does not necessarily mean that they were gluttons and drunkards. It does mean that they were absorbed only by earthly and physical appetites. Their only concern was food, clothing, shelter, the things of this life. They married and were given in marriage. They were absorbed by the activities of this life. They took no time to prepare for the life to come. Their life was like that of animals. Animals have no soul. They take no thought for matters after death.
- B-They did not realize what lay ahead of them. 120 years before the Flood God informed Noah that the Flood was coming. Read II Pet. 2:5. Noah is called a preacher of righteousness. And the people of his time are called ungodly. At Gen. 6:3 the Lord said "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever." That means they would not listen to God, to Noah the preacher. There were giants on the earth. Their marriages had become ungodly.
- C-They judged by human standards. In vs. 40-41 of our text Jesus warns us not to go by human standards. Believers and unbelievers very often look very much alike in this life. But God looks at the heart. Read II Pet. 3:1-7. The people in Noah's day scoffed at the announcement of the great Flood. They did not believe Noah. They said: "We'll always be here."

II-A MINORITY OF PEOPLE WILL BE LIKE THE EIGHT BELIEVERS OF NOAH'S TIME

- A-Noah was a just man, blameless in his generations. He walked with God. Gen. 6:9. This does not mean that Noah and his family were without sin. They were sinners. At the end of life they died. But they were believers. They listened when God spoke. They were not of the ungodly. They were saved because they believed the Lord.
- B-Noah was a preacher of righteousness. II Pet. 2:5. For 120 years Noah warned people about the coming Flood. Hebr. 11:7 reads "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." His faith in Christ declared Noah righteous. He went about, while building the ark, preaching salvation. That is a picture of the church on earth, getting ready for Christ's second coming. Their preaching is building the ark which will save people from sin, death, Satan and hell.
- C-They watch, they realize, they are prepared. Not even the Son of man knows when He will come again. He will come in a moment when no one is expecting Him.

Conclusion: Not only did God love the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for their sins. God also loves the world now and that is why He warns all men about the final judgment. At the time of Noah the world was wicked, violent, thinking only about the pleasures of the body and of this life. But the Lord was patient. He waited for their repentance 120 years. In the meantime He sent Noah to preach to them. God wants ALL to be saved. Are we watching, realizing and are we prepared? We are at God's mercy but He is merciful to us. Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His mercy endures forever. Paul says "By His mercy He has saved us." He also says "But God had mercy on me." That's the way all of us should speak. Lord have mercy on me, the sinner!

Sermon Notes on Mt. 24:36-44, Second Last Sunday of Trinity Season

1. Jesus Himself prophesied His suffering and death, Lk; 9:22, and also His ascension. Jn. 14:3. In Jn. 14:3 Jesus also referred to His second coming. He also foretold the final judgment, Mt. 25:31-46. In our text, Mt. 24:36-44, Jesus warns all men to prepare for His second coming. He dearly loves all people. He wants all to be saved, And He wants all to prepare for His second coming.
2. The day and hour of Jesus' final coming is known ^{only} to the Father, vs. 36. Even the Son does not know. That is a deep mystery. The Son of Man will come at a moment when no one is expecting Him, vs. 44. He will come just as He ascended, Acts 1:11. All people, even those who crucified Him, will see Him come, Rev. 1:7, which quotes Dan. 7:13.
3. The last sentence of the second article of the Apostles' Creed reads: "And He will come again to judge the living and the dead." Only one act of Jesus' saving mankind remains: coming for judgment.
4. Our text uses two illustrations to picture conditions among men when Christ will return: a) Vss. 37-39, the lack of preparation among men when the great flood came, and b) Vs. 43, the lack of preparation by a man who owned a house. He was unprepared for the thief who broke into his house.
5. Our text uses one illustration, vss. 40-41, to warn us not to judge a person's lot in eternity by earthly standards. Two will be in a field. One will be taken, the other left. Two will be grinding at a mill. One will be taken, the other left. The physical circumstances of people who are going to eternal life and eternal death may be the same in this life But Christ and Christ alone will decide whether they are going to heaven or to hell. Jn. 5:29; Mt. 25:31-46.
6. What will be the difference between the two groups? Mk. 16:16 says "He who believes and is baptized will be saved. He who does not believe will be damned." The first difference is faith ^{or} the lack thereof. Only God can judge the heart.
7. Our text contains three imperatives: "watch" vs. 42; "realize" vs. 43; and, "be prepared" vs. 44. All three begin with faith in the Words of Jesus. Those who believe and are baptized will be saved. They watch, they realize, they are prepared.
8. Jesus uses the flood as a wonderful illustration of the end of the world. Read Gen. 6 and 7. Believers and unbelievers married each other. They began to resist the Holy Spirit, Gen. 6:3. But they became a mighty people who were very worldly-wise, vs. 4. The Lord decided to destroy the wicked ones, vss. 5-7. But Noah believed the Lord, vs. 8. He believed the Lord's prediction of the flood, vs. 13. He obeyed the Lord and built the ark, vss. 14-22. See Hebr. 11:7. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. He walked with God, vs. 9. See also II Pet. 2:5. He was a preacher of righteousness, II Pet. 2:5. He went about telling people how to be saved. Only seven people listened: his wife, his three sons and their wives. For 120 years, Gen. 6:3, Noah did two things: built the ark and warned people about the end of the world. They did not listen. They ate and drank, they married and were given in marriage until the day when Noah entered the ark. They did not realize until the flood came. But then it was too late. They thought only about the things of this life. They had no time for the Word of God, for repentance, for faith, for preparation.
9. How did Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives differ from those who were lost? They listened to the Lord's warning. They believed, they obeyed. They realized the seriousness of the situation. They were constantly prepared for the flood. Their circumstances were the same as that of the people of this world. But, when the flood came they entered the ark. The world did not. They were saved. The world drowned in the flood. Instead of destroying them, the waters of the flood saved them because they were in the ark. I Pet. 3:20-21. The church is like the ark. The invisible church, all those who truly believe, will be saved.
10. Watch, realize, be prepared. Because the Son of Man will come again at a time unknown to all, even to the Son of Man.