



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

December 1, 2025: First Sunday of Advent
Preparing for a Real Christmas:
Prepared to Stand without Fear before the Son

Luke 21:25-26

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

1. Can you remember a time where you were fearing and fretting about the consequences of your actions? What prompted your fear? How did it turn out?

2. The fear of judgment and being held accountable is part of the natural knowledge of God that everyone has. How does this present an opportunity for you to witness in your relationships?
3. Jesus says that Judgment Day can come at any moment like a thief in the night. Why is it so easy to think we have plenty of time to repent before we die or face Judgment Day? How does this text inspire urgency?
4. How do sins like drunkenness or getting fixated on the anxieties of life make us even more prone to not being ready when the trap springs?
5. How can we make confession and absolution a more regular and meaningful part of our lives?
6. Jesus tells his disciples not to bend in fear but to stand and lift up their heads when Judgment Day comes. What preparation needs to have happened to be able to do that without fear?
7. The “Great Exchange” is one of the simplest outlines for a law/gospel conversation with someone. Use 2 Corinthians 5:21, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” to articulate the exchange that makes us confident for Judgment Day.
8. When Jesus returns, he is bringing redemption and salvation for believers. How does this change our living now?