

# ASLEEP IN THE LIGHT: *The Life of the Church between Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming*

Luke 12:35-13:9 ESV

**INTRODUCTION:** "ASLEEP IN THE LIGHT" by Keith Green

Do you see, do you see all the people sinking down?  
Don't you care, don't you care are you gonna let them drown?  
How can you be so numb not to care if they come?  
You close your eyes and pretend the job's done

Bless me Lord, bless me Lord You know it's all I ever hear  
No one aches, no one hurts no one even sheds one tear  
But He cries, He weeps, He bleeds and He cares for your needs  
And you just lay back and keep soaking it in

Oh, can't you see it's such a sin? 'Cause He brings people to your door  
And you turn them away as you smile and say  
God bless you, be at peace and all heaven just weeps  
'Cause Jesus came to your door you've left Him out in the street

Open up, open up and give yourself away

You see the need, you hear the cries so how can you delay?  
God's calling and you're the one but like Jonah you run  
He's told you to speak but you keep holding it in

Can't you see it's such a sin?  
The world is sleeping in the dark that  
**the church just can't fight 'Cause it's asleep in the light**  
How can you be so dead, when you've been so well fed  
Jesus rose from the grave and you, you can't even get out of bed  
Jesus rose from the dead, come on, get out of your bed

How can you be so numb not to care if they come  
You close your eyes and pretend the job's done  
You close your eyes and pretend the job's done  
Don't close your eyes, don't pretend the job's done

Come away, come away, come away with Me my love  
Come away from this mess, come away with Me, my love

## 1. LEGALISM

### WARNING

**"Beware** of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. (Luke 12:1 ESV)

### REASON

"I tell you, my friends, **do not fear** those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.

### PREPARATION

But I will warn you whom to fear: **fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!** Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.** (Luke 12:4-7 ESV)

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, **do not be anxious** about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luke 12:11-12 ESV)

## 2. COVETOUSNESS

### WARNING

**"Take care, and be on your guard** against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:13-15 ESV)

### REASON

But God said to him, **'Fool! This night your soul is required of you,** and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:20-21 ESV)

### PREPARATION

**"Fear not, little flock,** for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Luke 12:32-34 ESV)

### 3. SLEEPINESS

#### THE WARNING: Wake-Up

- **CLOTHES:** “Stay dressed for action and

In this manner you shall eat it: **with your belt fastened**, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. (Exodus 12:11-13 ESV)

- **LAMP:** keep your lamps burning, and

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by **night in a pillar of fire to give them light**, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people. (Exodus 13:21-22 ESV)

- **MASTER:** be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.

The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. **The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing.** And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:33-36 ESV)

#### THE REASON:

- **MEAL:** Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (John 13:2-5 ESV)

- **BLESSING:** If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (Luke 22:44-46 ESV)

- **THIEF:** But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and

Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “**Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**” (Acts 1:6-11 ESV)

Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?”

### THE REWARD: Faithful Obedience

- **HOUSEHOLD:** And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household,
- **FOOD:** to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
- **POSSESSIONS:** Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

### THE PUNISHMENT: The Disobedient

- **REBELLIOUS:** But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.
- **KNOWLEDGEABLE:** And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating.
- **IGNORANT:** But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

### THE JUDGMENT: Coming of Jesus

- **FIRE:** “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!

Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: “Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them.

Behold, I am bringing against you a nation from afar, O house of Israel, declares the LORD.

It is an enduring nation; it is an ancient nation,

a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say. (Jeremiah 5:14-15 ESV)

- **BAPTISM:** I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. **Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?**” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with **the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,** but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”(Mark 10:37-40 ESV)

- **WAR:** Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father

against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. **Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:** “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” (Matt 2:16-18 ESV)

### **THE PREPARATION: Know the Times**

- **STORM:** He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:10-17 ESV)

### **THE PREPARATION: Be Reconciled to God**

- **COURTROOM:** “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

**“When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts?**

**Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.**

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

**If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”** (Isaiah 1:12-20 ESV)

### **THE PREPARATION: Be Reconciled to God—Illustrated**

- **PILATE:** There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?”
- **TOWER:** Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”
- **FIG TREE:** And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”