INTRODUCTION: Although we cannot know the time of Christ’s return to earth, we should be observant of the signs that signal His return . . . and live accordingly.


A. Be Careful (Luke 17:1-2)

Luke 17:1-2 1 "And He said to His disciples, ‘it is inevitable that stumbling blocks should come, but woe to him through whom they come! 2 ‘It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble.’"

1 Corinthians 8:11-13 11 “For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died. 12 And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.”

B. Be Forgiving (Luke 17:3-4)

Luke 17:3-4 3 “Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times a day, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”

Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

Luke 17:4 “And if he sins against you seven times a day, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”
Mark 11:25 "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions."

Matthew 6:14-15 14 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

C. Be Believing (Luke 17:5-6)

Luke 17:5-6 5 "And the apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' 6 And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.'"

1 John 5:14 "And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

D. Be Obedient (Luke 17:7-10)

Luke 17:7-10 7 "But which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat?' 8 "But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me until I have eaten and drunk; and afterward you will eat and drink?' 9 "He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? 10 So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

E. Be Grateful (Luke 17:11-19)

Luke 17:17-19 17 "And Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? 18 Was no one found who turned back to give glory to God, except this foreigner? 19 And He said to him, 'Rise, and go your way; your faith has made you well.'"
Philippians 4:6 “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything: tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank Him for His answers.” (The Living Bible)

II. Explanation Of End Times Events  (Luke 17:20-37)

A. The Question  (Luke 17:20-21)

Luke 17:20-21  “Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or, ‘There it is!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.’”

Luke 17:24-25  “For just as the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day. But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”

B. An Overview of End Time Events  (Romans 11:25)

Romans 11:25  “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;”

Bible Prophecy Chart
Luke 17:26  “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man.”

Luke 17:35-36  35 “There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left.  36 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.”

C. Jesus’ Words and Today’s Events

Luke 21:28  “But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

1. **Center** our attention on Israel.

2. **Illustrate** how a regional conflict could escalate into a world war.

3. **Prepare** the way for the Antichrist.

2 Peter 3:11-12a  “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming day of God.”

Conclusion