

## Traveling Well

### What makes us bad drivers?

- We don't pay enough attention to driving
- Then when something happens, we overreact

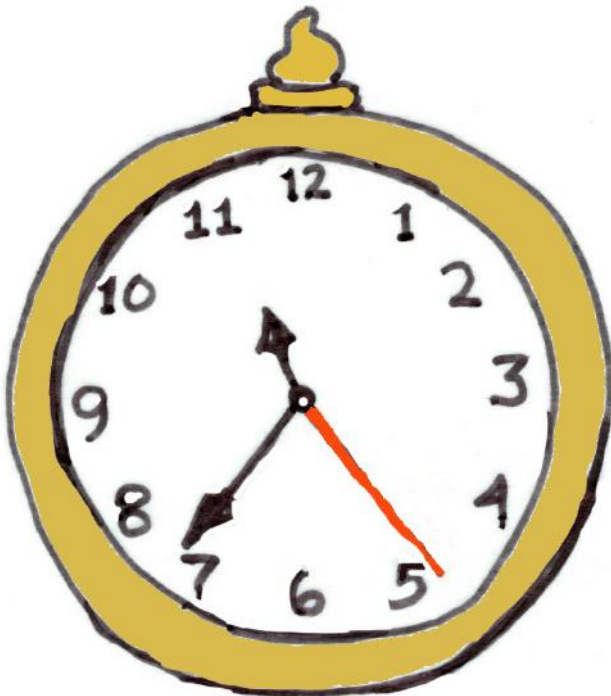
### What makes us bad travelers in life?

#### Perhaps...

- We don't pay enough attention to living
- Then when something happens, we overreact

**We ask God:** Help us learn to navigate through life better  
in challenging days

1



## Watch and Pray

*Luke 21:5-38*

[bib.ly/Lu21.NIV](https://bib.ly/Lu21.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)

2

### As Jesus went to Jerusalem...

Jesus had predicted that He would be arrested and killed

Jesus entered Jerusalem and showed His authority over God's temple and God's people

Jesus then taught about the future:

- after His death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven
- It was like giving directions through mountains without a map, GPS, or address
  - "Watch for these landmarks..."

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Prophecy is often like mountains in a picture:  
it can be hard to distinguish: **near**, **mid**, and **far**  
yet maybe that isn't what's most important



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*Luke 21:5-6*

Some of his disciples were remarking about how **the temple** was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, “As for what you see here, the time will come when **not one stone will be left on another**; every one of them will be thrown down.”

**The Temple: power, glory, stability, national identity, God**

• **One stone: 36 feet by 18 feet x 12 feet → over 500 tons!**

**One day, it would be demolished...which was a devastating thought!**

• **40 years after Jesus, it was destroyed**

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**What is the equivalent symbol for you?**

**→ People and their endeavors will **all** come to an end**

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*Luke 21:7-9*

“Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

He replied: **“Watch out that you are not deceived.** For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

**Many people will make many claims:**

- **“I know what is wrong”** **Don't let anyone deceive you!**
- **“I know who is wrong”** **Much time will pass...with lots of troubles**
- **“I can fix it. Trust me!”** **...then the end will come by surprise**

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*Luke 21:10-11*

Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

**Lots of troubles and upheaval!!**  
**Global troubles & natural disasters**  
**But also...**

pestilences = plagues (pandemics)

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*Luke 21:12-15*

“But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. **Through Acts: trouble was their opportunity point to Jesus!!**

“But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

**“You” in the Bible doesn’t always mean “Us”**  
**The book of “Acts” (Luke Part 2) describes these things**

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*Luke 21:16-19*

“You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me.

But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life.

**“Some” will be killed: Martyrdom is unusual. Trouble is not.**

**Nothing will happen outside of God’s knowledge and care  
All of God’s children will be rescued in His Kingdom**

**Be confident in God and His plans and care**

**“By faithful endurance, gain your lives.” *Christian Standard Bible***

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*Luke 21:20-24*

desolation = devastation

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.

How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

**Jerusalem was punished by God**

**Symbol of greatest joy becomes greatest distress**

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*Luke 21:25-28*

“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. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the **Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** When these things begin to take place, **stand up and lift up your heads,** because your redemption is drawing near.”

**An erosion of natural world’s support of abundant life  
When people are panicking, you can be confident in Christ!**

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*Luke 21:29-33*

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

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

**The crumbling of the world means His Kingdom is coming closer!  
“This generation” : many theories  
What is clear: Jesus’ words are more reliable than all creation**

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*Luke 21:34-36*

“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. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be 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.”

**We can be weighed down by bad things and by good things  
Choose to give attention to the Kingdom of God  
Pray!  
Escape = stand firm in Christ until the end & not be ashamed**

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*Luke 21:37-38*

Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

**Ongoing teaching about the end of human endeavors & kingdoms  
And the coming of the Kingdom of God**

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### The Big Idea

**Jesus' Kingdom will one day replace every human endeavor and kingdom and all people are called to enter it and live according to it before it is too late**

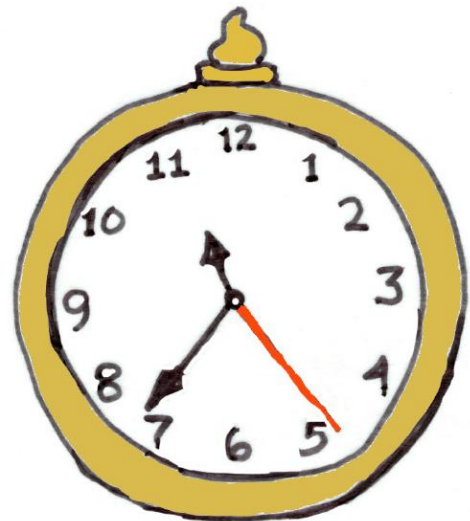
- "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"
  - Perhaps also means:
    - "May my kingdom end, and our kingdoms end"
    - "May my will and our will be replaced"
    - **So your glorious and wonderful Kingdom can fill all creation!**
  - It's going to happen anyway! **And what could be better!!**

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### Reading an analog watch or clock

#### Why 3 hands?

- Hour      Changes very slowly
- Minute
- Second    Changes very quickly



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## Reading an analog watch or clock

When we watch the second hand...

- **We may panic!**
- “Watch out that you are not deceived.”
- “Do not be frightened.”
- “So often, chaos is not a sign of the end, but a sign of human falleness throughout the ages.”
- **Like the second hand, troubles will come and go... over and over again**
  - **And we may panic over and over again!**



19

## Reading an analog watch or clock

When we watch the minute hand...

- **We may be weighed down with the anxieties of life.**
- “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life.”
  - **By both bad and good things**
- **Like the minute hand, human endeavors and concerns will come and go...over and over again**
  - **And we may be weighed down over and over again!**



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## Reading an analog watch or clock

When we watch the hour hand...

- We may be lulled to sleep
- “Be always on the watch, and pray”
- Like the hour hand, the coming of the kingdom of God may seem so slow that we stop watching...

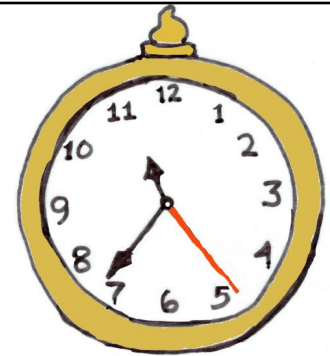


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## Reading an analog watch or clock

When we watch all 3 hands **and trust God...**

- We can live well...
  - in the repeated crises (second hand)
  - in the story of our lives (minute hand)
  - in the decay and trouble of the world (hour hand)
- knowing that every passing second, minute, and hour, we are getting closer to the return of Jesus Christ and the appearing of His Kingdom!



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## The Doomsday Clock

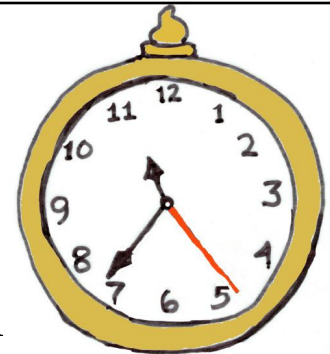
An “indicator of the world’s vulnerability to catastrophe”  
100 seconds to midnight



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## Reading an analog watch or clock

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and **into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.** This inheritance is **kept in heaven for you,** who through faith are **shielded by God’s power** until the coming of the salvation that is **ready to be revealed in the last time.**” *1 Peter 1:3-5*



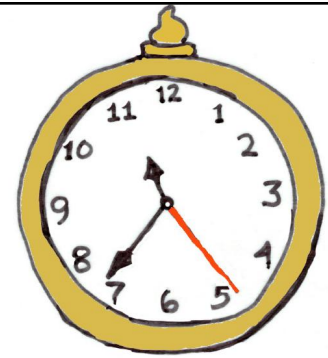
**We are awaiting, not our doom, but our greatest joy!**

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## Reading an analog watch or clock

### Jesus was not saying...

- justice and mercy in this world don't matter
- life and nature don't matter
- wisely handling crises doesn't matter



### He was saying...

- we are to follow His will and His ways in this age
- while we await with hope and anticipation the full expression of His Kingdom when Jesus returns
- **Those who have this hope ought to have the greatest commitment and strength to care for what is entrusted to us now**

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### The Big Idea

**Jesus' Kingdom will one day replace every human endeavor and kingdom**

**and all people are called to enter it and live according to it before it is too late**

- Human endeavors and human kingdoms come and go
  - Sometimes like the stones of the temple that seemed "rock solid"
  - Sometimes like shadows that disappear in a moment
- Jesus' Kingdom will definitely come
  - suddenly and completely and gloriously forever!

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### Application

“**Be careful**, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life”

- **Many things can choke our spiritual lives (joy, hope, peace, ...)**
  - **Bad things can dull our hearts and minds**
    - Like drunkenness
  - **Good things can dull our hearts and minds**
    - Like family or career or financial security or seeking justice or...
- **What keeps us from (really) listening to God’s Word?**
- **What keeps us from loving God before anything else?**
- **What keeps us from loving the people around us as ourselves?**
- **What keeps us from seeking first His Kingdom?**

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### Application

“**Be always on the watch, and pray**...that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

- “Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, **set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed** at his coming.” *1 Peter 1:13*
- **Set your hope on what Christ will bring...**
  - **Full and final peace: health, wholeness, and community**
  - **Full and final justice**
  - **Full transformation**
  - **As you pursue His will and His ways until then**
- **By prayer and for prayer**
  - “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you”

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### Application

**“Don’t be frightened...**Stand firm...  
**Lift up your heads.”**

- **Our King and Savior will come in total victory!**
  - “He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’” *Revelation 21:6-7*
- **We wait with confidence for the One who is victorious!**
- **Jesus Christ is King both now and forever!**
- **Every day is a day closer to enjoying the love of God forever!**

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### Application

**Be ready** for the end that will come  
**“springing suddenly like a trap”**

- The criminal hanging on a cross next to Jesus said: “We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But [Jesus] has done nothing wrong.”  
Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”  
Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” *Luke 23:40-43*
- **“Jesus, I deserve punishment not life. But since you died for me, please remember me in your Kingdom.” And He will!**

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### **The Big Idea**

**Jesus' Kingdom will one day replace every human endeavor and kingdom and all people are called to enter it and live according to it before it is too late**

- **As the clock ticks, pay attention to God's Word, God's Spirit, and God's Work**

–“The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” *Romans 13:11*