Be Prepared, Luke 17:20-37 -Bradley Bell

November 20, 2022

Luke: Upside Down

Length	
in	mins

Audio/ Visual BandPersonVocals

0:00 Call to Worship - Isaiah 51:4-6

Church, the longer we live in an imperfect world, the more injustices we rack up. We see societies falling short, we see nature doing harm, we experience relationships getting sideways and bodies breaking down. And our hearts cry out, "This is not the way things should be! Somebody come and set things right."

Well there is One who hears our cry. And he was already prepared to answer even before we asked. He speaks to us through the prophet Isaiah,

"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed. Isaiah 51:4-6

Friends, God's forever salvation has come in the Person of Jesus Christ. He has inaugurated his kingdom by coming as a suffering servant who died on the cross for our sins. And one day soon he will consummate his kingdom by coming again as a conquering king. So let us say this together with great hope and expectation of the One who will set all things right:

Christ has died! **Christ is risen!** **Christ will come again!**

0:00 Grace Alone [Default Arrangement in E]

0:00 Confession - Mark 15:42-43

In chapter 15 of the Gospel of Mark, while Jesus' body is still hanging cold and dead on the cross, we read this:

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Mark 15:42-43

The kingdom of God that Jesus had preached certainly didn't seem like it was coming in power on that day. But despite his grief and confusion, Joseph kept his eyes on Jesus and found the courage to trust God. Don't we need the same today, church? We may not be waiting for Jesus to come down off the cross, but we are waiting for Jesus to come down off his throne in heaven and make all things new. So let's pray this together:

God, sometimes we lose hope. Sometimes we question the ways you have chosen to bring about your kingdom. Lord, keep our eyes on Jesus and give us the courage to trust you. We wait for you. Come Lord Jesus!

0:00 Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me [Default Arrangement in C]

Winona in B

- 0:00 Mystery [Default Arrangement in A]
- 0:00 Sermon Luke 17:20-37
- 0:00 Communion 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

0:00 Jesus Strong And Kind [CinC]

Length in mins

0:00 Endless Praise [Default Arrangement in Gb]

0:00 Benediction - 2 Corinthians 13:14

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week in order for us to grow in the context of deep relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also now is our time for giving—ushers please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat; the pen is yours to keep.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

1) Next Sunday begins the season of Advent in which we prepare our hearts to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors as well.

2) Women's Christmas Brunch - Antioch Women, the annual women's Christmas brunch will be on Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. More details will follow on the gift exchange and food sign-up.

3) Family Meeting - Our annual December Family Meeting for Antioch members will take place on Sunday evening, December 11th. This will take the place of family groups that week, so facilitators please plan accordingly.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Church, your King is coming again! Therefore may you go ruled by his Word and Spirit, submitting yourself more and more to the good life, and declaring his kingdom until it fully comes. Inspired by the Heidelberg Catechism Question 123.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

WE ARE SENT