

Your Final Act Before The Final Trumpet

By: Dan Jenkins

When Jesus foretold the time when not a single stone of that majestic temple in Jerusalem would rest upon another, the disciples asked for signs which would precede the destruction of that temple and the end of Judaism (**Mark 13:4; Luke 21:7**). The Lord gave at least eight distinct signs which would come before that event. He then foretold of another event which would happen for which there was one single sign to announce its coming. Jesus spoke of a day when, not the temple, but heaven and earth would pass away. He gave no sign for that day, for it will come as an unannounced thief (**Mark 13:31-32**).

It will happen when men are doing things which happen all the time—eating, drinking, marrying and weddings. It will be unannounced and will come when no one is expecting it to happen (**Matt. 24:44**). What is happening on that day will be the same things which happen every other day. What kinds of events will be happening when Jesus returns?

When Jesus returns, some will be sitting in worship. Every day there are gatherings of Christians in various time zones around the world like Bible classes, devotions, gospel meetings, lectureships and special church events. This was brought home to me when I preached in Columbus, Ohio, several years ago. A brother prayed, “Lord, if you are assembling your angels right now to come to

judge the world, we beg you to wait long enough for brother Dan to finish his sermon and let us sing one more song.” It could happen. It is truly possible that He will come before the end of an evangelistic sermon.

When Jesus comes, some will be attending a funeral. For all the reasons given above, just imagine what it would be like to be at a funeral or at a graveside when that shout comes from heaven. All of the grieving which accompanies these events will be meaningless. Such thoughts should help us deal with the loss of our loved ones. It is truly possible that He will come before a funeral filled with grief ends.

When Jesus comes, some will be involved in sinful actions. Imagine those who are cursing and blaspheming God and His holy name just as the last trumpet sounds. Imagine those who are involved in sexual immorality as the shout from heaven comes. It is possible that just as words profaning His name leave someone’s lips the heavens will be rolled up as a scroll.

When He comes, many will be involved in “washing the feet” of those around them. What a joy to think that when He comes we will be doing right. Think about this. Live every minute of every day knowing that that minute is when He might come!

Let's Go Running

By: Selected

The Bible often mentions athletics. That first-century world had its “Olympics”—not with the ancient duplications of the marathon from Greek culture, but the Romans regularly had sporting events where athletes competed with one another. Paul speaks of one fighting (boxing) not as one just throwing punches into the air, but one who faced the opposition head on (**1 Cor. 9:26**). The writer of Hebrews described runners who removed the weights from their body which they had used in training but then removed for the actual competition (**Heb. 12:1**). Let's look at four times running is found in the Bible.

They Ran To Jesus

We know the story of the rich, young ruler who came to Jesus and was told to sell all he had. He wanted Jesus' answer so much that he came running to Jesus (**Mark 10:17**). On another occasion, just before Jesus fed the 5,000, He departed with his disciples in a boat. The people from all the cities actually anticipated where He was going and ran to be there when He arrived (**Mark 6:33**). Oh, that our world would see Him this way and run toward Him. Oh, that all my brethren would run to Him!

They Ran Away From Jesus

Think about the events on Passover night and all that happened in Gethsemane. The mob approached sleeping disciples and praying

Jesus, and Judas betrayed Him with a kiss. Though Peter temporarily defended Him, the situation got so bad that “then all the disciples forsook Him and fled” (**Matt. 26:56**). How tragic! When He could have called thousands and thousands of angels, He had to face death by Himself. God, help us to never run away from Him!

Jesus Runs To Us

To see Jesus is to see the Father and to see the Father is to see Jesus. They are the same in nature. Jesus beautifully describes the love of fathers (and by application describes the love of the Father) in the story of the prodigal son. Put yourself in the place of that wayward son as he approached his father, and imagine what he felt when he saw the father running toward Him. Now imagine yourself coming to the Savior and the joy to see Him running to us!

We Run With Jesus

They were told, “I will be with you until the end of the age” (**Matt. 28:20**). When they carried the gospel to the lost, they were never without Him—not even once. He promises us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. His presence assures us that heaven will do all it can in helping us in His work. Do not cower in fear. Boldly stand with Him. Let's run to Him as He runs toward us and with us. Victory is assured!

Evangelism Training

Every fourth Sunday in May, June, and July
from 3:40 pm-4:45 pm

Get equipped and encouraged to bring souls
to Christ.



We rejoice that Petro Castillo was baptized last week. He is the husband of Sarah Castillo who has visited with Nicolette Garcia recently. May his walk with Christ bear much fruit.

Upcoming Events

TODAY!: Youth Devo after evening worship services here at the building. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sun. June 4: Potluck luncheon after morning service and we will be honoring our graduates Sabrina Gonzalez and Luis Carlos (LC) Islas. There will be a cake and baskets for your cards and well wishes. A 12:45 afternoon service will follow in lieu of the 5pm.

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Marguerite Arnot who is still recovering from hip surgery.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Service Roster

Week of May 14, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Blake Jacobs
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Will Burleson

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Billy York
Offering.....Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Jake Jacobs
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer.....Jack Jobes
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Kirk FitzSimmons/
Steve Randle

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song LeaderJack Jobes
Devotional Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion for May.....Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays

Summer Siegel.....May 21
Doug Jobes.....May 23
Marilyn Horst.....May 25

James Husak has expressed his desire to work under the oversight of the Elders of the Midtown congregation. He is the brother of Nancy Dorries. His contact info is on a sticker in the foyer to add to your pocket directory.

Evangelism Table

An important item on our evangelism table is the bookmark. On the front of the bookmark is space for you to write 10 families who you would like to reach with the Gospel. These 10 families are called "contacts."

On the back of the bookmark are examples of when it is ideal to change a contact into a "prospect." For example, if a contact on your list becomes sick, is recovering from surgery, has lost a loved one, has a new job, etc., please let James Cammock know and we will start reaching out to that person together as a congregation.

Please feel free to keep your bookmark in your Bible at all times. It will help you to keep these families in mind and in prayer.

Food Helpers for the month of May - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation; Preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity.”
Psalm 64:1

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of May 7, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....90
A.M. Worship.....120
P.M. Worship.....90
Wednesday Bible Class.....67

Financial information is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.