

Luke 21:34-38

³⁴But watch yourselves, or your hearts will be weighed down by dissipation, drunkenness, and the worries of life—and that day will spring upon you suddenly like a snare. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of all the earth. ³⁶So keep watch at all times, and pray that you may have the strength to escape all that is about to happen and to stand before the Son of Man.”

³⁷Every day Jesus taught at the temple, but every evening He went out to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. ³⁸And early in the morning all the people would come to hear Him at the temple.

Berean Standard Bible

1

Look out – no don't look out / Be better looking. Luke 21:34-38

Look in. 21:34

Release your heart. 34 “your hearts will be weighed down”

Ready your mind. 34 “that day will spring upon you suddenly”

Look ahead. 21:35

Look beyond today. 35 “it will come”

Look beyond people. 35 “upon all who dwell on the face of all the earth”

Look up. 21:36

Watch out. 36 “keep watch at all times, and pray”

Work out. 36 “that you may have the strength to escape... and to stand”

Look deep. 21:37-38

Permanent growth. 37 “Every day Jesus taught”

Priority growth. 38 “early in the morning all the people would come”

2

Luke 21:34-38

“Watch yourselves”. 21:34-35

Unburden your heart. 34 “your hearts will be weighed down”

Unclutter your mind. 34 “and that day will spring upon you”

Unclench your hands. 35 “it will come upon all”

“Watch at all times”. 21:36-38

Strength is in prayer. 36 “pray that you may have the strength”
Seek and you will find. 37 “at the temple... on the Mount of Olives”
Stop and listen. 38 “early in the morning... hear Him”

3

Take life to the next level. Luke 21:34-38

Live above the world. 21:34-35

Live with self-awareness. 34 “watch yourselves, or your hearts”
Live with fact-awareness. 35 “it will come upon all”

Live beyond the world. 21:36

Live spiritually in time. 36 “pray that you may have the strength”
Live spiritually in eternity. 36 “stand before the Son of Man”

Live deeper than the world. 21:37-38

Live in the darkness. 37 “every evening He went out to spend the night”
Live in the Light. 38 “early in the morning... come to hear Him”

4

Abundant living, surrounded by spiritual poverty. Luke 21:34-38

Abundant living lifts me from the inside. 21:34-35

Life guards my heart. 34 “or your hearts will be weighed down”
Life guards my mind. 35 “and that day will spring upon you suddenly”

Abundant living guards me from the outside. 21:36

Life gives me endurance for progress. 36 “the strength to escape”
Life gives me confidence for eternity. 36 “stand before the Son of Man”

Abundant living

Life still works in the darkness. 37 “every evening He went out to spend the night”
Life needs daily renewing. 38 “early in the morning... come to hear Him”

5

There is a better way forward. Luke 21:34-38

Facing the darkness. 21:34-35

Choose the better path. 34 “watch yourselves, or your hearts will...”
Choose the higher path. 35 “upon all who dwell on the face of all the earth”

Walking in the Light. 21:36

Watch and pray. 36 “pray that you may have the strength”
Stand and give account. 36 “stand before the Son of Man”

Sitting with the Lord. 21:37-38

I want to be with Jesus in the night. 37 “every evening... spend the night”
I want to be with Jesus through the day. 38 “early in the morning... hear Him”

6

The Second Coming comes with no second chance. Luke 21:34-38

The Second Coming will catch people out. 21:34

Either, 34a “watch yourselves”
Or, 34a “or your hearts will be...”

The Second Coming impacts all people. 21:35-36a

Watch. 36a “keep watch at all times”
And pray. 36a “pray for strength”

The Second Coming is the fulfilment of the First. 21:36b-38

Step out. 36b “escape all that is about to happen”
Step up. 36b “stand before the Son of Man”

7

You are stronger than you think. Luke 21:34-38

Be strong of heart. 21:34

Develop self-awareness. 34a “watch yourselves”
Develop self-assurance. 34a “or your hearts will be weighed down”

Be strong of mind. 21:34b-35

Jesus will arrive without warning. 34b “suddenly like a snare”
Jesus will challenge everyone with eternity. 35 “it will come upon all”

Be strong of spirit. 21:36

Assertive strength is needed now. 36a “pray that you may have the strength”
Affirmed strength is granted then. 36b “stand before the Son of Man”

Be strong of action. 21:37-38

More is always available from Jesus. 37 “Every day Jesus taught”

Make the most of my time with Jesus. 38 “come to hear Him”

8

Self-protection. Luke 21:34-38

I need to protect my present. 21:34a

Examine everything personally. 34a “watch yourselves”

Expel everything unhelpful. 34a “your hearts will be weighed down”

I need to protect my future. 21:34-35

The last day will be unexpected. 34b “that day will spring upon you suddenly”

The last day is everyone’s last day. 34b “it will come upon all”

I need to protect my heart. 21:36

I am responsible. 21:36a “keep watch at all times”

I am accountable. 21:36b “stand before the Son of Man”

I need to protect myself now. 21:37-38

I need to meet Jesus in public. 37 “Every day Jesus taught at the temple”

I need to meet Jesus in private. 37 “spend the night on the Mount of Olives”

Other possible titles

The end is better than the beginning

Seeing through the fog of information overload

Commentary

This portion of the Olivet Discourse is unique to Luke. It does not appear in the parallel texts in either Matthew 24-25, or Mark 13.

Music and songs

Songs about freedom from worry or fear, 34 “or your hearts will be weighed down”

I will trust in You... I will not be afraid,

Songs about difficult times ahead, 36 “escape all that is about to happen”
Troublesome times are here... Jesus is coming soon.

Songs about personal accountability, 36 “stand before the Son of Man”

Songs about learning from Jesus, 37-38 “Every day Jesus taught... come to hear Him”
Speak oh Lord

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. List some advantages of self-awareness.
 2. When does self-awareness degenerate into self-absorption? How does self-awareness grow into self-assurance?
 3. What are some of the things for which you are responsible?
 4. What is the difference between being responsible and being accountable?
 5. Romans 14:12 says we are accountable to God. Accountable for what? And why are we accountable at all?
 6. What are some advantages, and disadvantages, about being open about our faith?
What are some advantages of developing a personal faith?
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