

# Luke 17: 20-37

## Jesus and Our Future



1. Is our society optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Does that make much difference to the way people live in the present?

Jesus speaks about “the kingdom of God”, the promised era when God will come to destroy his enemies and rule his people and his world in peace and blessing. It was the phrase used by Jews of Jesus’ time to summarise the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament prophets.

2. What was the Pharisees’ question and how did Jesus answer it?
3. Jesus’ answer “the kingdom of God is in your midst” has been interpreted in several ways:
  - a. the kingdom is essentially inward (‘in your hearts’);
  - b. ‘The kingdom will suddenly appear among you.’;
  - c. The kingdom is ‘within your reach’;
  - d. The kingdom is ‘among you’ in Jesus and his work. [See Leon Morris, *Luke* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 276-277.]

The last option seems the most likely. How does Luke’s gospel present Jesus as bringing the kingdom?

4. When Jesus speaks to the disciples he speaks about “the day(s) of the Son of Man”, what does he mean? (See Daniel 7).
5. How are Jesus’ comments to the disciples similar to and different from his answer to the Pharisees?
6. What is Jesus warning about in verses 26-35? How do you think the various comments tie together?
7. What does it mean to save or lose your life? (v33)
8. The final question and answer in verse 37 is particularly mysterious. What do you think the disciples were asking, and how is Jesus’ reply an answer to their question? How does it fit with the rest of the passage? [Don’t get too caught up on this question!]
9. How does Jesus’ teaching here relate to earlier parts of Luke 17? Can you see any connections?
10. Jesus portrays people as oblivious to the coming judgement. How is our society like that? Does our culture give any opportunities to think beyond the here and now? How can we give ourselves and other people those opportunities?
11. What ways can you ‘lose’ your life this week or this month?