



Wise Counsel For Living In The Last Days

“In the last days remember . . .”

John 14:25, 29

Introduction

In **John 14:8-31** Jesus gives us **“Wise Counsel For Living In The Days”**

In the Last Days remember:

Jesus is God vv.8-11

We know Jesus is God because of His Words.

We know Jesus is God because of His Works

Scripture

25 “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you.” CSB

29 “I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe.” CSB

Quote Of The Day

“We will have eternity to celebrate the victories, but only a few hours before sunset to win them.” —Amy Carmichael, Irish missionary to India (1867-1951)

In the last days remember:

2. The Mission of the Righteous v.12

“Truly I tell you, **the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do.** And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.” CSB

Every follower of Christ is called to be on mission!

Being on mission means living to complete the task at hand.

Jesus was on mission to seek and to save those who are lost!

Jesus is no longer with us on the earth— He has called every Christ follower to accomplish His work and advance His Kingdom on the earth.

In **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus said: “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” CSB

Every Christ follower is commanded by Jesus to:

Make disciples

Baptize disciples

Teach disciples

In **Acts 1:8** the last words Jesus spoke on the earth “ . . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” CSB

What does being on/ living on mission really look like?

Did you know there were two boats that responded to the Titanic when it was sinking? One boat, the Californian, was about 20 miles away. They turned off their radio about ten minutes before the Titanic hit the iceberg. They saw rockets and flares shoot off in the distance. They couldn't figure out why another boat was shooting rockets and flares, but they didn't turn on their radio, and they didn't investigate. They saw the boat's light turn off,

but thought it was just turning its light off for the night. The crew of the Californian were so in maintenance-mode with what they were already doing, they couldn't imagine the Titanic sinking. For the rest of their lives the crew members of the Californian had to wrestle with why they didn't go. But there was another ship, the Carpathia. It was 58 miles away. But its radio was on, and when it got the call that the Titanic was sinking it powered up all its engines and headed straight for the Titanic, navigating around icebergs in the night. It ran full-power ahead for 3.5 hours. When the crew showed up at the scene of the disaster, many had already perished, but they saved 705 lives from the life boats.

The Carpathia was in mission mode. The Californian was in maintenance mode. Which would we rather be? The Californian ? Or the Carpathia ? A church just trying to get by? Or a church on a mission, saving lives?

Citation: William Hull, Strategic Preaching: The Role of the Pulpit in Pastoral Leadership (Chalice Press, 2006), pp 209-213;

Through the Power of Jesus the mission of every Christ follower is to advance the Kingdom of God on the earth with our time, our spiritual and physical gifts, our passions, our resources and our God given opportunities.

In the last days remember:

3. The Prayers of the Righteous vv.13-14

“Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 **If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**”
CSB

Jesus Taught us to pray

Jesus Calls us to pray

Jesus answers when we pray

Jesus answers our prayers in one of three ways:

1. No— It is not God's Will or we ask "amiss."

James 4:3 "You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures." CSB

Jesus answers our prayers in one of three ways:

2. Not Yet—

Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the LORD." CSB

Waiting on God on God to answer prayer and work in our life can be difficult.

In the summer of 1846, "The Donner-Reed Party" a group of 89 emigrants headed west along the 2,170-mile-long Oregon Trail. Tired, hungry, and trailing behind schedule, they decided at Fort Bridger, Wyoming to travel to their final destination in California by shortcut. The "Hastings Cutoff" they chose was an alternative route that its namesake, Lansford Hastings, claimed would shave at least 300 miles off the journey. The party believed this detour could save more than a month's time. They were wrong. Hastings Cutoff turned out to be a waterless, wide-open stretch of the Great Salt Lake Desert, that Hastings himself had never traveled. He simply looked at a map of the route that settler John C. Fremont had taken in 1845 across the Great Salt Lake Desert. Hastings then wrote a guidebook which said it would be quicker and easier than the standard trail. What Hastings didn't realize was that Fremont almost died doing it. By the time the Donner-Reed party finally reached the Sierra Nevada mountains, the shortcut had cost them weeks. Snow fell, trapping the travelers. This is when the most infamous (and deadly) part of their tale began. When members of the party began starving to death, survivors ate their remains to stay alive.

Many times shortcuts, do not produce the desired results. In this case the short cut was disastrous for "The Donner-Reed Party." Citation: Laura Kiniry, "The Deadly Temptation of the Oregon Trail Shortcut," *Atlast Obscura* (12-2-20).

Many times we are tempted to find the easy way to growth, achievement or respect. But God uses time, effort, trials and hardship in our lives to produce fully mature believers.

James 1:2-4 “Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 **And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.**” CSB

Waiting on God is sometimes difficult, but God knows what is ahead for us, He knows what is best for us — **Be Patient**

Jesus answers our prayers in one of three ways:

Yes—

In the last days remember:

4. The Expectation of the Righteous vv.15-26

God has expectations for the Righteous

The Righteous expectations from God

“If you love me, you will keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you. 18 **“I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.** 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. **Because I live, you will live too.** 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. 21 The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we

will come to him and make our home with him. 24 The one who doesn't love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. 25 "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. 26 **But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.**" CSB

In the last days remember:

5. The Peace of the Righteous vv.27-29

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful.** 28 You have heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe." CSB

The word translated **"Peace"** comes from the Greek word **"Eirene"** meaning, total well-being, harmony, prosperity and security associated with God's presence in our life.

We live in a dark, wicked, chaotic and broken world— Jesus said "My peace I give to you . . . Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful.

In the last days remember:

6. The Opposition of the Righteous v.30

"I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me." CSB

Ephesians 6:12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens." CSB

Colossians 1:13 “He (the Father) has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” CSB

The ruler of this world is Satan, he is a liar, a deceiver, he is the one who comes to steal, kill and destroy.

1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. 9 Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.” CSB

In the last days remember:

7. The Power of the Righteous v.30

“I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. **He has no power over me.**” CSB

Every follower of Christ can take comfort and have confidence in the fact that Jesus has been given all authority over everything and satan has no power over Jesus.

In the last days remember:

8. We Are Sent v.31

“ . . . so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do as the Father commanded me. **Get up; let’s leave this place.**” CSB

Acts 1:8-11 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you

into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.”

In the last days we must remember— we are His witnesses. We are called and sent to share with others what we know, what we have heard and what we have experienced as it relates to the presence of Jesus in our life.

Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” CSB