



When The Unexpected Comes

A Teaching Outline

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

When the unexpected comes

Proverbs 3:25

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes.

A father's instructions Is kind Is loyal Trusts in the Lord Puts God first Turns away from evil Knows right from wrong Listens and learns Does what is right Long, satisfying life, favor with God and people, Reputation for good judgment, Success, Health, vitality, Riches, honor, pleasure and peace

Wisdom speaks Discovers knowledge and discernment Hates pride, arrogance, and corruption Respects and fears God Gives good advice and has common sense Loves correction and is teachable Knows God Riches, honor Justice Righteousness Life God's approval Constant learning Understanding

The coming of the Lord will be unexpected.

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The day of the Lord is the day of God's judgment on the earth. Here it is used in reference to Christ's return. Christ's second coming will be sudden and terrible for those who do not believe in him. But if we are morally clean and spiritually alert, it won't come as a surprise.

A cry goes out when the bridegroom appears.

Matthew 25:6

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Jesus told this parables to clarify further what it means to be ready for his return and how to live until he comes. In the story of the 10 bridesmaids (25:1-13), we are taught that every person is responsible for his or her own spiritual condition. The story of the three servants (25:14-30) shows the necessity of using well what God has entrusted to us. The parable of the sheep and goats (25:31-46) stresses the importance of serving others in need.

All things work together for the good of those who love God.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

God says that wisdom is primary and fundamental. It is the foundation on which all life is built. Paul and John may have alluded to some of Solomon's statements about wisdom to describe Christ's presence at the creation of the world

You know not the hour when the Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Christ's second coming will be swift and sudden. There will be no opportunity for last-minute repentance or bargaining. The choice we have already made will determine our eternal destiny.

You do not know what will be on the morrow.

James 4:13-14

Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: [14] Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

It is good to have goals, but goals can disappoint us if we leave God out of them. There is no point in making plans as though God does not exist because the future is in his hands. The beginning of good planning is to ask: "What would I like to be doing ten years from now? One year from now? Tomorrow? How will I react if God steps in and rearranges my plans?" We can plan ahead, but we must hold on to our plans loosely. If we put God's desires at the center of our planning, he will never disappoint us.

Life is short no matter how many years we live. Don't be deceived into thinking that you have lots of remaining time to live for Christ, to enjoy your loved ones, or to do what you know you should. Live for God today! Then, no matter when your life ends, you will have fulfilled God's plan for you.

The Holy Spirit will show you the things to come to pass.

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would tell them "about the future"—the nature of their mission, the opposition they would face, and the final outcome of their efforts. They didn't fully understand these promises until the Holy Spirit came after Jesus' death and resurrection. Then the Holy Spirit revealed truths to the disciples that they wrote down in the books that now form the New Testament.

The King was destroyed for his unbelief.

2 Kings 7:2

Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

When Elisha prophesied God's deliverance, the king's officer said it couldn't happen. The officer's faith and hope were gone, but God's words came true anyway (7:14-16)!

Sometimes we become preoccupied with problems when we should be looking for opportunities. Instead of focusing on the negatives, we should develop an attitude of expectancy. To say that God *cannot* rescue someone or that a situation is *impossible* demonstrates a lack of faith.

Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

Ira Stanphill, 1950)

I don't know about tomorrow;
I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine
For its skies may turn to grey.
I don't worry o'er the future,
For I know what Jesus said.
And today I'll walk beside Him,
For He knows what is ahead.

Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand
but I know who holds tomorrow
and I know who holds my hand.

Every step is getting brighter
As the golden stairs I climb;
Every burden's getting lighter,
Every cloud is silver-lined.

There the sun is always shining,
There no tear will dim the eye;
At the ending of the rainbow
Where the mountains touch the sky.

Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand
but I know who holds tomorrow
and I know who holds my hand.

I don't know about tomorrow;
It may bring me poverty.
But the one who feeds the sparrow,
Is the one who stands by me.
And the path that is my portion
May be through the flame or flood;
But His presence goes before me
And I'm covered with His blood.

Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand
but I know who holds tomorrow
and I know who holds my hand.

As someone only quoted as unknown once wrote

I may never see tomorrow; there's no written guarantee.
And things that happened yesterday belong to history.
I cannot predict the future, I cannot change the past.
I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last.
I must use this moment wisely for it soon will pass away,
And be lost to me forever as part of yesterday.
I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet,
Be a friend unto the friendless, make an empty life complete.
The unkind things I do today may never be undone,
And friendships that I fail to win may nevermore be won.
I may not have another chance on bended knee to pray,
And thank God with humble heart for giving me this day.

Tomorrow is that even inasmuch as we try to figure it all out, we cannot know which course is the best in life until hindsight blinds us by the force of its illumination. The song simply communicates that this is as it should be, for all of life is trial and error. Only God knows everything and we do well to play our hope in Him alone.

The broader point of the song, then, is that we can never know what tomorrow holds for our lives unfold in a series of moments. And the Giver of Moments stands by, holds our hand, and tells us, 'this uncertainty is, ok.' God is in control. We can rely on him

Illustration

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God."

(Corrie ten Boom)

"In 1996, contemporary Christian singer/songwriter Cindy Morgan arrived for a series of concerts in Los Angeles. As she unpacked her clothes for that evening's concert, she discovered her dress was terribly wrinkled. A woman helping with the concert set out to find an iron. She was sent to a church staff member's house with a key and instructions as to where she would find the ironing board. To her horror, she entered the house only to find the teenage daughter was home with a loaded gun. She was about to commit suicide when the woman arrived. Through quick thinking, a cool head, and the presence of God, she was able to talk the troubled teen into dropping the gun and returning with her for help. In response to God's miraculous intervention, Cindy Morgan said, 'to rescue a life, he wrinkled a dress.'" (Christian Reader, Jan. /Feb. 2000, p. 79)

This is a simple reminder that God is always in control.

An unknown poet has written: "I heard a voice at evening softly say, / 'Bear not your yesterdays into tomorrow, / nor load this week with last week's load of sorrow. / Lift all your burdens as they come, nor try/ to weigh the present with the by-and-by. / One step and then another, take your way; / Live day by day!'"

A young girl was once asked if she received all the things she wanted for Christmas, she replied, "No, but it is not my birthday".

Wally, an awkward young boy, was a part of the Christmas Play where he took his position where Joseph started knocking on the set door.

Wally threw open the door and demanded, "What do you want?" The familiar lines were repeated while Wally stood stiff, staring straight ahead. He forcefully told Joseph the inn was full.

When the young characters portraying Mary and Joseph turned to walk away, Wally was supposed to close the door. Instead, he watched them walk off. His countenance changed from the stiff innkeeper to a compassionate young boy.

He suddenly responded as only Wally could. He yelled out to the young couple, "You can have my room!" Wally Purling rewrote the Christmas story from his tender heart and gave the world an excellent model to follow."

(Christmas Stories for the Heart, Alice Gray, 1997, p. 21)

What is the compassion of our hearts?

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

