

Luke 21:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Analysis

Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged (Προσέχετε δὲ ἔαυτοῖς μήποτε βαρηθῶσιν ὑμῶν αἱ καρδίαι, Prosechete de heautois mēpote barēthōsin hymōn hai kardiai)—Prosechō heautois (take heed to yourselves) commands self-vigilance. Mēpote (lest at any time) warns against even momentary lapse. Bareō (to weigh down, burden, overcharge) in the aorist passive subjunctive barēthōsin suggests sudden heaviness overtaking the kardia (heart), the center of will and affection.

With surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life (ἐν κραιπάλῃ καὶ μέθῃ καὶ μερίμναις βιωτικαῖς, en kraipālē kai methē kai merimnais biōtikais)—three dangers: kraipālē (surfeiting, dissipation, the hangover and nausea from excess), methē (drunkenness), and merimnai biōtikai (cares/anxieties of life). Note Jesus equates sensual excess (drunkenness) with mundane anxiety (life's cares)—both dull spiritual alertness. **And so that day come upon you unawares** (καὶ ἐπιστῇ ἐφ' ὑμᾶς αἱφνίδιος ἡ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη, kai epistē eph' hymas aiphnidios hē hēmera ekeinē)—epistēmi (to come upon, arrive suddenly) with aiphnidios (unexpected, sudden) warns of Christ's return catching unprepared believers like a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:2-4).

Historical Context

This warning follows the Olivet Discourse on Jerusalem's destruction (AD 70) and end-times signs. Jesus warns disciples that both catastrophic judgment and final return require readiness. Early church lived in constant expectation of Christ's return (Romans 13:11-14, 1 Peter 4:7), making vigilance urgent.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can both excessive indulgence and anxious worry equally dull your spiritual alertness to Christ's coming?
2. What specific 'cares of this life' currently burden your heart and distract from eternal readiness?
3. How should living with constant expectation of 'that day' reshape your daily priorities and choices?

Interlinear Text

Προσέχετε δὲ ἐαυτοῖς μήποτε βαρυνθῶσιν ὑμῶν
take heed And to yourselves lest at any time be overcharged your
G4337 G1161 G1438 G3379 G925 G5216

αἱ καρδίαι ἐν κραιπάλῃ καὶ μέθῃ καὶ μερίμναις
hearts with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares
G3588 G2588 G1722 G2897 G2532 G3178 G2532 G3308

βιωτικαῖς καὶ αἰφνίδιος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς ἐπιστῇ ἡ ἡμέρα
of this life and unawares upon you come day
G982 G2532 G160 G1909 G5209 G2186 G3588 G2250

ἐκείνη so that
G1565

Additional Cross-References

Mark 4:19 (Parallel theme): And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Luke 12:40 (Parallel theme): Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

1 Corinthians 6:10 (Parallel theme): Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 3:3 (Parallel theme): Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

2 Peter 3:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (Parallel theme): But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an

idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Isaiah 28:7 (Parallel theme): But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

Matthew 13:22 (Parallel theme): He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Galatians 5:20 (Parallel theme): Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Hosea 4:11 (Parallel theme): Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

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