

Matthew 24:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Analysis

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage—Jesus doesn't condemn normal activities but absorption in them to the exclusion of spiritual reality. The Greek imperfect tense (ēsan, ἦσαν = they were) pictures continuous action—eating (trōgō, τρώγω), drinking (pinō, πίνω), marrying (gameō, γαμέω), and giving in marriage (gamizō, γαμίζω) without interruption.

Until the day that Noe entered into the ark (achri hēs hēmeras eisēlthen Nōe eis tēn kibōton, ἕχοι ἡς ἡμέρας εἰσῆλθεν Νῶε εἰς τὴν κιβωτόν)—life's normalcy continued right up to the threshold of judgment. The problem wasn't the activities but the hardened indifference. They treated Noah as a fanatic, the ark as a joke, and divine warnings as superstition. Comfortable routines anesthetized them to reality.

Historical Context

Genesis 7:1-10 describes the seven-day warning before the flood. Noah entered the ark, God shut the door, and for seven days nothing happened—one final test of the world's faith. The antediluvian world had reached peak wickedness (Genesis 6:5) and peak complacency. Similarly, first-century Judea enjoyed Pax Romana—peace, prosperity, temple worship—while ignoring Jesus's warnings about impending AD 70 judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'normal' routines and pursuits might be dulling your spiritual watchfulness for Christ's return?
2. How can you engage in necessary daily activities (work, family, food) without being absorbed by them to spiritual detriment?
3. What is the difference between healthy enjoyment of life's blessings and the dangerous complacency Jesus warns against?

Interlinear Text

ὅσπερ γὰρ ἦσαν ἐν ταῖς ἡμέρας ταῖς πρὸ τοῦ
as For that were in the day before G3588 G3588 G4253 G3588

κατακλυσμοῦ τρώγοντες καὶ πίνοντες γαμοῦντες καὶ
the flood they were eating and drinking marrying and G2532 G4095 G1060 G2532

ἐκγαμίζοντες, ἅχρι ἦς ἡμέρας εἰσῆλθεν Νῶε εἰς τὴν
giving in marriage until that the day entered Noe into G3588 G1519 G1547 G6891 G3739 G2250 G1525 G63575

κιβωτόν

the ark

G2787

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 6:2 (Parallel theme): That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Luke 12:45 (Parallel theme): But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

Matthew 22:30 (Parallel theme): For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Luke 12:19 (Parallel theme): And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 21:34 (Parallel theme): 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.

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