

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, ἄχρι ἣς 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

ὥσπερ	γὰρ	ἦσαν	ἐν	ταῖς	ἡμέρας	ταῖς	πρὸ	τοῦ
as	For	that were	in	G3588	the day	G3588	before	G3588
G5618	G1063	G2258	G1722		G2250		G4253	
κατακλυσμοῦ	τρώγοντες	καὶ	πίνοντες	γαμοῦντες	καὶ			
the flood	they were eating	and	drinking	marrying	and			
G2627	G5176	G2532	G4095	G1060	G2532			
ἐγκαμίζοντες,	ἄχρι	ἧς	ἡμέρας	εἰσῆλθεν	Νῶε	εἰς	τὴν	
giving in marriage	until	that	the day	entered	Noe	into	G3588	
G1547	G891	G3739	G2250	G1525	G3575	G1519		
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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