

Going Deeper Questions

Be Prepared

1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Luke 19:11-26; Revelation 5-6

December 6, 2009

1. You remember the story of Julie and her raccoon, Bandit? Has anything happened to you where it took you by surprise?

2. In the sermon we studied 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. A parallel passage is 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. In light of the immanent rapture that is coming, Jeremy alluded to the hunch he has that we normally don't live expectantly—ready for things to change quickly. Is that a fair assessment? Why do you think this is?
 - a. The apostle Paul wrote those words 2000 years ago, and things haven't changed yet. How can we be confident that they will? Read 2 Peter 3:3-10 – what light does that passage shed on how people think about the future?
 - b. What would change in our lives if we lived every day expectantly? How can we keep a healthy balance – not going overboard and getting out of touch with the here-and-now?

3. What did you think about the parable of Jesus in Luke 19:11-27? Have you ever heard that we will be rewarded in the kingdom to come for being faithful now? Read either 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 or 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (or you can read both if you are ambitious) and discuss how you feel your life is counting for the Lord. How can we avoid always feeling guilty for not doing enough for the Lord?

4. We didn't get a chance to read all of Revelation 5. Take some time to read Revelation 5 and 6, then skip to Revelation 8. That will probably be enough to give you a good feel for the hardship that will fall upon the earth. This is a judgment by the Lord, the Lamb, for the rejection of Jesus—the insistence on not repenting (cf. Revelation 9:20-21). What kind of impact does reading these things have on you?

5. Given the truth that there will be a great judgment on the earth—a tribulation, who do you know that you have to talk to about eternity and challenge them to trust in Jesus to secure an eternity in God's kingdom?