

## Devotionals for 21 Day Fast

### OWN THE PURSUIT

**DAY 12: Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> — *What Time is it?***

*<sup>6</sup> when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.”*

*Luke 21:31*

### *It's Later than you think .....*

Anne Graham Lotz has a teaching in which she asks – “Do you know what time it is?” Then she drills down deeper and asks – “What do you want to be doing five minutes before Jesus returns?” Both are sober questions that deserve sober answers. But that second question provides opportunity to engage pensive exploration of your **thought-word-attitude-behavior** choices. It's a reality check for your heart. I use it as an accountability question to guide and measure steps, decisions, interactions, reactions-in-the-moment, and daily responses.

All it takes is looking around at the signs of the times to get an idea what time it is.

- The world in conflict. Governments in upheaval. Nature in jeopardy. Organizations in discord.
- People in rebellion. Desperate souls with no hope. Hearts feeling lonely and afraid. Individuals and nations scrambling for a good plan. Man's anger getting hotter. Deceptions that are given too much credibility.

Yes, all those things are going on *right now* in our world. As far as – “What Time Is It” – it's probably much later than you think. How do you know if it's getting close to the end times? Can a person get a clue or claim a hunch as to when Jesus will return to set things right again?

It's a sure thing! He will set up His Glorious Kingdom, effective government, strategic community, freedom for daily living, compassion for every individual, peace on earth, and joy.

### What Time Is It? – The End Times

Jesus told His disciples signs that will happen near the time He will return. That detailed list is in Mark 13 and again in Luke 21. Jesus closes out with these words, “. . . *when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.*” (13:29) “. . . *when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.*” (21:31)

I guess we **can** get a clue. It seems God **intended** people to get a hunch.

Given those words from Jesus, Himself, we really could be close to the time He returns! Still, the very first disciples thought Jesus would return before their lives ended. All through history, followers of Jesus have thought the end might be very soon. Although we cannot determine when Jesus will return, we can use Scripture and discernment to know it is probably close.

### Side Note

Did you know Jesus has chosen to not know when He will return? He told His disciples in both Mt. 24:36 and Mk. 13:32, “*But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*” Jesus is satisfied to **not know** when He will return. It is enough that His Father knows and will keep Him duly informed. Incredible!

Why do we have issues trusting our Father with the unknowns in our lives? The trust Jesus (fully human and fully God) places in Father provides another practical example for us. We don't need to know everything before we decide to trust and obey!

### How Then Shall We Live?

“Be very careful, then, how you live.” (Eph. 5:15a) Your daily choices matter. The quality of character you exercise is critical. In order to make a statement for Jesus with your life epistle – your life story – you need to be **accurate and careful** what you “write” into each day. To be a light in this dark and sinful world, yes – even to this very intelligent and technical i-generation – you also need to be **practical and relevant** in your life story.

### GO DEEPER

### LIFE APPLICATION

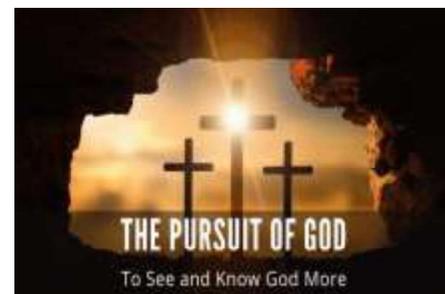
#### *DON'T WORRY*

*It's a command from the Lord, so every time we are anxious about life we're actually sinning against God*

*OFTENTIMES WHEN WE WORRY, IT'S AN INDICATION WE FORGOT TO GIVE THANKS*

### Devotional Text

Luke 21 1-31  
Mark 13:29, Ephesians 5:15



*“God wants the whole person and He will not rest till He gets us in entirety. No part of the man will do.”*

A.W. Tozer



## Day 12 Cont'd – What time is it?

### Later than we think.....

Contrary to much of what we see in the world today, I believe with all my heart – **Integrity** still matters. I also believe **wisdom** will guide if you seek and obey God. Prov. 4:6 personifies wisdom as a valuable companion. “Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you. Love her, and she will watch over you.”

#### Qualities to help you write your life story each day:

- ▶ Be Accurate    ▶ Careful    ▶ Practical    ▶ Relevant
- ▶ Have Integrity    ▶ Exercise Wisdom

Are you working to live with these qualities?

### Upside-Down = Bad News

Isaiah. 5:20-21 says, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.”

This sounds like the world today – upside-down. Topsy-turvy

**Woe** is promised to a person who turns God’s right-side-up reality into upside-down. Scripture specifies:

1. Calling evil – good and good – evil.
2. Calling dark – light and light – dark.
3. Changing out bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.
4. Being wise in your own eyes and clever in your own way of seeing things.

### Sobering Warning About What Time Is It?

As we already discovered, the warning word used for those who flip God’s reality upside-down is **woe**. Woe means “anguish, grief, affliction, distress, despair.” God says these will affect you if you do not live within His reality.

On the bad news side, God declares the soberness of your condition. On the good news side, He gives a Savior to provide deliverance from all that is upside-down in the world and in your life. What a gracious exchange through Jesus who was born to grow up and die in your and my place.

### Action Steps To Live In God’s Will

How can you understand God’s will and know how to follow it? Each life is so unique and different.

Here are some helpful action steps:

1. **Ask for wisdom** is the first step to apply His will in your life details.
2. **Choose an attitude of deep respect for God** (fear of the Lord). This begins the process of receiving His wisdom into your heart and mind.
3. You must **believe** He is very near, ready to pour His love and help into your heart.
4. Be **ready to receive**.
5. Resolve to **trust and obey** Him.

(Source: <https://www.aliveandactivelife.org/articles/what-time-is-it/#gallery-7/0/First-Best-Most.jpg>)

## LIFE APPLICATION

*Prone to wander, Lord,  
I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God  
I love;  
Here's my heart, O  
take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts  
above*

Let

**JESUS**

be your

**First, Most and Best!**

