

1 The Last Lecture

of Jesus Christ

2 Scripture

“But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” (Mark 13:24–25)

“At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.” (Mark 13:26)

“And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.” (Mark 13:27)

3 Scripture

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: (Mark 13:28 NIV)

As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out,

You know that summer is near.”

“Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.” (Mark 13:29 NIV)

“I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.” (Mark 13:30 NIV)

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Mark 13:31 NIV)

4 Scripture

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Be on guard!

Be alert!

[Why?] You do not know when that time will come.”

“It’s like a man going away:”

“He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and

Tells the one at the door to keep watch." (Mark 13:32–34 NIV)

5 Scripture

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back — (Mark 13:35 NIV)

whether in the evening, or

at midnight, or

when the rooster crows, or

at dawn."

"If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping." (Mark 13:36 NIV)

"What I say to you, I say to everyone: . . . 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:37 NIV)

6 Introduction

One way to summarize the last lecture of Randy Pausch, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh was to keep awake.

Pausch delivered his final lecture in September 2007, after he had been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer.

7 Introduction

In his last lecture, Randy showed . . .

a love of life, and

an approach to death,

that many people found inspiring.

In fact, his lecture turned into a phenomenon, viewed by millions on television and on the Internet.

8 Introduction

Moreover, Randy went on to write a best-selling book with columnist Jeffrey Zaslow titled, *The Last Lecture*.

It was a book about . . .

love,

courage, and

saying goodbye.

9 Introduction

On the day of his lecture, Randy expected that maybe 150 people would attend.

He bet a friend \$50 that he would never fill the 400-seat auditorium.

Well, Randy lost that bet and lost it big!

10 Introduction

The auditorium was in fact packed, and when he arrived on stage, he received a standing ovation.

He motioned the audience of students and colleagues to sit down.

“Make me earn it,” he said.

11 Introduction

According to columnist Zaslow of *The Wall Street Journal*, Randy hardly mentioned his cancer in the course of his 70-minute lecture.

Instead, he took everyone on a riveting journey through the lessons of his life.

12 Introduction

He talked about . . .

the importance of childhood dreams, and

the stamina needed to overcome obstacles.

“Brick walls are there for a reason,” he insisted, showing slides of the rejection letters he had received over the years.

“They let us prove how badly we want things.”

13 Introduction

He pushed his audience to show patience toward others, saying,

“Wait long enough, and people will surprise and impress you.”

He celebrated his mentors and his students with an open heart.

And revealed the depth of his love for his family.

14 Introduction

Giving a nod to his techie background, Randy showed good humor.

“I’ve experienced a deathbed conversion,” he said with a smile.

“I just bought a Macintosh computer.”

Wanting to show the crowd that he wasn’t ready to kick the bucket, he dropped to the floor and did one-handed push-ups.

The crowd went wild!

15 Introduction

Keep awake!

That’s what Randy seemed to be saying as he invited his audience . . .

to rethink their ambitions and

find new ways to look at other people’s flaws and abilities.

Keep awake to what is truly important in life seemed to be what Randy was trying to say.

16 Introduction

After the lecture, Randy's only plan was to spend his remaining days with his family.

But a video of his talk began to spread like a virus across the Web.

Randy was soon receiving e-mails from people around the world, telling him that his lecture . . .

had inspired them to spend more time with loved ones,

quit pitying themselves, and

even resist suicidal urges.

Terminally ill people were inspired to embrace their own goodbyes, and have fun with every day they had left.

17 Introduction

His last lecture really woke people up.

Randy was even invited to appear The Oprah Winfrey Show and share part of his lecture.

And ABC News even named him one of its three "Persons of the Year."

18 Introduction

People even urged Randy to write a book, which he resisted at first, since he wanted to spend time with his family.

Nevertheless, working with a columnist through a cell-phone headset, and over the course of 53 long bike rides he shared the insights that became the book called, The Last Lecture.

On Friday, July 25, 2008, Randy died of cancer at the age of 47.

19 Jesus' Last Lecture

The Last Lecture of Jesus Christ was given to the disciples only hours from his crucifixion.

Of course it wasn't a lecture and he wasn't in a classroom.

In those days, "classrooms" and "lectures" were often conversations on a walk.

20 Jesus' Last Lecture

Still, it's not a stretch to think of these words of Jesus as his last thoughts, his last "lecture" in which he challenges the disciples to keep awake for his second coming.

An earth-shaking event which will occur at an undetermined time after his death, resurrection and ascension.

In this last lecture, Jesus promises that he will return as the Son of Man, coming in clouds with "great power and glory" to gather his people from the ends of the earth—to save them from the coming wrath of God. (Mark 13:26-27).

21 Jesus' Last Lecture

Nevertheless, these event will catch most people off guard.

Why? Because life won't be entirely chaotic.

People will be going through their normal routines such as:

Going to work.

Buying groceries.

Hanging out with friends and family.

Planning their lives.

Wearing their masks, etc.

22 Days of Noah and Lot

As in the Days of Noah. (Luke 17:26–27 NIV)

People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark.

Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

As in the Days of Lot (Luke 17:28–29 NIV)

People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

23 Sons of the Light

However, according to the Apostle Paul, this day will not catch attentive Christians off guard. As he says, . . .

[You] are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. (1 Thes. 5:4-5a)

Nevertheless, we must be ready for what is coming.

So then, as the Apostle Paul says,

Let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (1 Thes. 5:8 NIV)

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes. 5:9 NIV)

24 Future events

So then, what should we be looking for and why should we have our spiritual armor on?

According to Jesus, there are seven categories of events in which he describes, in Mark 13.

Near Future Events (Destruction of Jerusalem, AD 70)

Birth Pangs (Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse)

Abomination of Desolation (Antichrist is Revealed)

Great Persecution (666 is enforced)

Cosmic Events (Sun, Moon, & Stars)

Rapture (First Resurrection)

The Day or the Lord (Second Coming)

25 Moral Colapse

We also have additional teachings from the Apostle Paul as a warning and something we should keep watch.

In fact, it is part of the Apostle Paul's last lecture too. (2 Timothy 3:1–5 NIV)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Have nothing to do with them.

26

27 Moral coLlapse

Again, both Jesus and Paul seem to be in agreement.

One of the important signs of the coming of the Lord, it seems, is a total unparalleled moral breakdown.

Characteristics of the Days of Noah,

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. (Genesis 6:5 NIV)

Characteristics the Days of Lot (Sodom and Gomorrah),

The two angels told Lot, "The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it." (Genesis 19:13 NIV)

Rampant homosexuality and sexual violence.

According to Ezekiel, People in general were arrogant, overfed, haughty, detestable, and unconcerned for the poor.
(Ezekiel 16:49-50)

28 Watching

Again, why we should be watching?

Because there is something else on the horizon that we must be prepared.

It is a warning explicitly mentioned by Jesus in three of the gospels.

It is the the Abomination of Desolation, which will usher in a period of great persecution.

It will primarily be centered in the Middle East and in Israel, but will probably have ramifications around the world.

29 Watching

According to Jesus, "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me." (Matthew 24:9 NIV)

At that time, . . . (Matthew 24:10-11 NIV)

many will turn away from the faith and

will betray and hate each other, and

many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.
(Matthew 24:12-13 NIV)

30 Conclusion

The primary exhortation of both Randy Pausch and Jesus' last lecture is to keep awake and watch.

Truths, we should as Christians take to heart as we ponder the important events that are around us.

Why? Because many are going to be caught off guard and not be prepared, spiritually, emotionally, or mentally.

Instead of having the full armor of God on some will be weighted down will all kinds of distractions, anxieties and worry.

Jesus has promised us that by standing firm [we] will gain life. (Luke 21:19 NIV)

31 Conclusion

Therefore, let us be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (Ephesians 6:10 NIV)

Therefore, let us, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, [we] may be able to stand [our] ground, and after [we] have done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13 NIV)

So then, let us, . . . (1Th. 5:8)

Be self-controlled,

Put on faith and love as a breastplate,

Hope of salvation as a helmet.

32 Conclusion

Again, let us be attentive to what is most important.

Our relationships with our family and friends.

Our relationship with God and all his children.

Our level of maturity and readiness to handle all trials, temptations, and challenges to our faith.

When Jesus summarizes his first lecture, he says the following.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24 NIV)

"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." (Matthew 7:25 NIV)