



**Trait 27: Losing Focus
Day 1**

Return of Jesus and the Rapture of the Church

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

How do we know Jesus is coming back? Because he said so! Read John 14:1-3. In the above scripture in 1 Corinthians we have Paul describing a very special event. This was a mystery to the early Church, a new revelation that in a blink of an eye the Lord would receive His Church unto Himself at some unknown time in the future.

What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 15:50? At first glance it appears that nothing living can enter the Kingdom of God, is that the intended meaning?

What is being described in 1 Corinthians 15:52?

Compare 1 Corinthians 15:35-44 and 1 Corinthians 15:53-54. Do you understand what Paul is trying to explain about the transformation of the flesh body?



**Trait 27: Losing Focus
Day 2**

Imminent Return

Read Matthew 24

Jesus gave some pretty clear signs as to what the world would be like just before his return. Of course every generation since has seen these signs to some degree or another and have been convinced that they indeed are the last generation. Even the first century Church was convinced that the Lord would return during their lifetime. There is a dangerous game played amongst believers of trying to “date set” the Lord’s return, and since we are told that we cannot know this date and time we should not focus on such things for they will not bear fruit. It is safe to say however with the passing of each day that we are closer than when we first believed (Romans 13:11).

After reading the signs of the times given by our Lord in Matthew 24, what do you think about the times that we are living in?

Does it make you feel urgent or unsettled in the spirit?

(Remember 1 Thessalonians 5:9, “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”) Feeling urgent in the work of the Church is good, fearing what the “Day of the Lord” will bring is not for those that belong to Him!



**Trait 27: Losing Focus
Day 3**

Focus!

So the purpose of this weeks sermon is not to do a study of the Rapture of the Church or the Day of the Lord. The first two pages were to familiarize and refresh the mind with these events and they can be discussed and debated till He actually does return. Although there is some merit to understanding the times we are in, it should not be the main focus of our work as Christians!

Extra reading....this is a link to an article from a fellow sister in Christ wrestling with her spirit in the face of a world gone mad. A very edifying article if you would like to read but you have to go online.

<http://www.raptureready.com/soap2/wasson145.html>

Read and compare these two parables. Luke 12:16-21 and Luke 12:35-46

What was the mistake made by the rich man in the first parable?

What does the second parable make clear that we should be doing while waiting?



**Trait 27: Losing Focus
Day 4**

The Work

Read Mark 13:32-37

**What if every Christian heard the Word but did not tell it to anyone else?
Needless to say that the Church would have been short lived. Jesus did not want closet Christians, He made it very clear that it should be a very public declaration to the One you follow (Baptism) so that the whole world knows that you are a new creation in Christ!**

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Read Romans 10:13-15.

Why do we witness to the lost?

Why should we feel an urgency to do so?

Remember there is no greater gift of love than to try and share salvation with the lost regardless of how they receive it.



**Trait 27: Losing Focus
Day 5**

How to share the Gospel

Key points to remember about the lost...

- People are deceiving themselves!
- People are lost!
- People we know and love are lost!
- Justice is coming!

But don't start there!!! You can't just tell them they are lost, you must bring them to that conclusion themselves or they will reject everything you say after your first sentence! So how do you share the Gospel without being offensive? With love. Let the person see you act on their behalf out of pure love and concern. They will either receive you or reject you but that is not up to you at that point. If they seem receptive continue but if they reject you it is important to stop and wait for them to be ready.

So what do you say to get started?

Romans has often been described as the "Romans Road of Salvation". Familiarize yourself with the book of Romans. Like a skilled lawyer, Paul lays out the need and the means of salvation for Jew and Gentile alike. After reading Romans you should be able to answer.

Who needs to be saved?

Why they need to be saved.

How are they saved.

But remember share everything through tenderness and love, because these are things of the Spirit they are hard for the unsaved to understand at first!