

Will Jesus Find Faith on the Earth?

Luke 18:1-8

1. "Apocalyptic Movies" are very popular these days. These movies depict either impending doom to planet earth and all inhabitants, or they depict what life is like for the few who remain or survive after a world-wide disaster. Do you like this genre of movies? Why do you think people are so fascinated with "end of the world as we know it" scenarios?
2. There are several parts of the Bible that declare the truth that Jesus will return to earth someday and that will mark the end of the world as we know it. Jesus himself promised to return as the final judge of the world. Do you believe this? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Jesus has not returned yet?
4. Read Luke 18:1-8. Pastor Mark points out that Jesus is not suggesting that God is like an unjust judge. Jesus is not drawing an analogy between God and an unjust judge. Jesus is arguing that God is so much better than an unjust judge. How does this help you better understand the point Jesus is making? What is the point Jesus is making?
5. Worldwide, millions of Christians are suffering persecution. On average, 322 Christians are killed per month because of their faith in Jesus Christ. 214 Churches are destroyed each month. More than 26 million Christians were martyred in the 20th century, more than the previous 19 centuries combined. How do these statistics impact your understanding of Christian persecution in the world today?
6. Have you ever been persecuted in some way for your faith? Have you ever been mocked, ridiculed or ostracized because of your Christian faith?
7. Pastor Mark suggests that in America there is growing disrespect for the Christian Faith. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

8. What causes some people to “fall away” from their faith during times of persecution?
9. Pastor Mark suggests that for American Christians, the biggest challenge to our faithfulness is not persecution, but the drift caused by distraction. Do you agree or disagree? What sorts of things cause distraction that lead us to drift from our faith?
10. Jesus tells us that as we approach his second coming and the end of the world as we know it, the love of many will grow cold. In today’s scripture he asks, “When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on the earth?” What are you doing these days to make sure that your faith does not grow cold?
11. Why is the Church an important part of God’s plan to help Christians endure the pain of persecution or the drift of distraction?
12. How has the Church helped you to remain faithful to the Lord during a time when it is easy to fall away?