

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“When these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” –Luke 21:28

When I was a young girl, we were blessed to have a good-sized backyard with several fruit trees in the city of Buenos Aires. I eagerly awaited summer time, when I would be able to play with my friends and eat the delicious figs, avocados, and sweet grapes. As an adult, I discovered that my anticipation of summer was actually a parable that Jesus told about His second coming.

During His ministry, Jesus prophesied things to come, both in their immediate future and in His second coming. In the last days, there would be signs in the sun, moon, stars, and the sea (Luke 21:25-27). Jesus mentioned two strikingly opposite responses to these signs: some would faint from *fear* of the things that are coming, yet Jesus admonishes us to *straighten up and lift up our heads* because our redemption is drawing near. Then He tells the parable of the trees and the summer: “Behold the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things [attesting signs] happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near” (verses 30, 31). When leaves appear on the trees, we start looking forward to summer! Jesus exhorts us to choose faith over fear and to lift up our heads when we see the signs of His coming because our redemption is drawing near! I find a calm assurance in the terms “Redeemer” and “redemption,” because in the Old Testament (LXX) these terms related to the *release of a person* or property on *payment of a ransom*. Redemption is the recovery of the human race through the high price that Jesus paid for us on the cross! The ransom has been paid, and He is coming back to take us home! Jesus said: “They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (verse 27). Christ is coming back for us as a parent who paid the ransom for His kidnapped children and is coming to deliver them! I am eagerly awaiting that blessed day! In the meanwhile, choose *faith over fear*! Our redemption is near!