

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study
Lesson Thirty-Six

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 21 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Read Luke 21:1-3

From Warren Wiersbe- "When it comes to our giving, God sees more than the portion; He also sees the proportion. Men see what is given, but God sees what is left, and by that He measures the gift and the condition of our hearts. Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." He may have learned that from Jesus (Luke 6:38) or perhaps from Paul (2 Cor. 8:1-15)."

Read Luke 6:38 and 2Corinthians 8:1-5. Theses verses are not talking about tithes to the Lord, but giving for the benefit of those that are in need. In both cases The Lord is looking at our heart attitude in giving.

1. What would you think has more value in God's eyes? The unbeliever billionaire giving away an enormous amount of money to worldly charities? Or the family just making ends meet, that chooses to pack one Operation Christmas Child shoe box? Why?

Read Luke 21:5-10

Read Mark 13:3 to see who was asking the question in Luke 21:7

2. Who asked? And where were they?

Luke 21:5 states, *“And while some were talking about the temple, that it was decorated with beautiful stones and vowed gifts, He said, 6“As for these things which you are observing, the days will come when there will not be left one stone upon another, which will not be torn down.”*

Do you think it’s possible that the people had turned the temple into an idol?

David Guzik “The Jewish historian Josephus said that the temple was covered on the outside with gold plates, that were so brilliant that when the sun shone on them, it was blinding to look at. Where there was no gold, there were blocks of marble of such a pure white that from a distance, travelers thought there was snow on the temple mount.

i. As great as the temple was, Jesus never hesitated to claim that He was greater than the temple (Matthew 12:6). For many Jews of that day, the temple had become an idol – it began to mean more to the people than God Himself did.

ii. Good things can become the worst idols; and sometimes God sours or takes away even good things that we make our idols.”

Have you ever had God remove an idol from your life? Even if it was a good thing?

Notice that Jesus did not answer **When** these things were going to happen.

Charles Spurgeon, “Those questions are always being asked, they are being asked at this very day about Christ’s second coming. They shall have no answer, for Christ himself assures us that, as the Son of man, he knew not the day nor the hour of his own coming. As the Son of God he knew all things; but as a man like ourselves, he was willing to be a know-nothing upon that point.”

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” Mark 13:32

Warren Wiersbe- “Keep in mind that this was a message given to Jews by a Jew about the future of the Jewish nation. Though there are definite applications to God’s people today, the emphasis is on Jerusalem, the Jews, and the temple. Our Lord was not discussing His coming for the church, for that can occur at any time and no signs need precede it (1 Cor. 15:51–58; 1 Thess. 4:13–18). “For the Jews require a sign” (1 Cor. 1:22); the church looks for a Savior (Phil. 3:20–21).”

In verse 9, Jesus said, *“And when you hear of wars and revolts, do not be alarmed; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.”*”

Throughout this chapter, Jesus explains how his Second Coming will be preceded by signs, unlike the rapture which will happen suddenly.

Matthew 24 addresses the time during the tribulation.

Warren Wiersbe gave us a chart to compare Matthew 24 with events during the tribulation.

“However, during the first half of the tribulation, these events will multiply and intensify. Matthew 24:1–14 lists them in detail, and if you compare Revelation 6, you will see the parallel.”

Events Matthew	Revelation
false Christs 24:4–5	6:1–2
wars 24:6	6:3–4
famines 24:7a	6:5–6
death 24:7b–8	6:7–8
martyrs 24:9	6:9–11
worldwide chaos 24:10–13	6:12–17

Read the listed verses in Matthew with the corresponding verses in Revelation.

The early church longed for Jesus to return and establish His Kingdom, just as we do today.

2. Do you ever grow weary waiting for Jesus to return? _____

What are we commanded to do while we wait? Find scripture that shows us what we are to be doing while we wait for the Lord to return.

Luke 21:12-19

Here, Jesus is addressing persecution. He has always told us that we will be hated for following Christ. As the worldview becomes more hostile towards Christians, we have the hope of verse 15.

3. What does Jesus promise us in verse 15?

4. How can learning and studying scripture help a believer during times of persecution?

It is so important that we do not neglect God's Word.

Verse 12- *"on account of My name."*

Verse 17- *"and you will be hated by all people because of My name."*

Persecution is always rooted in the hatred of Jesus.

What does 1Peter 2:7 tell us?

Verse 13 mentions "your testimony". A believer's personal testimony can be the most powerful tool for evangelism. People may tune out or scoff at someone quoting the Bible. But people cannot deny your *personal* experience with Jesus.

5. Where in Acts can we find the Apostles boldly sharing their testimony with the threat of persecution happening?

How does this show them being reliant on the leading of the Spirit?

[illegible]

1Peter 3:15 says, “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;”

6. Maybe you have never prepared a quick (5 minute) testimony that you can share with others. We will break up in to pairs to share our testimonies with someone in our small group. Simply focus on how God touched your life, when writing your “God Story”, whether it tells how he brought you to become a Christian, or a beautiful testimony of how He has worked in your life.

[illegible]

Luke 21:20-24 refers to the events around the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.

Mr. Wiersbe noted, “Luke’s account refers not to a distant event to occur during the tribulation but to the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus and the Roman army in AD 70, just forty years from that time (see Luke 19:41–44). This terrible event was in many respects a “dress rehearsal” for what will happen when Satan vents his anger on Israel and the believing Gentiles during the last half of the tribulation (Rev. 12:7–17). The Jewish historian Josephus claimed that nearly a million people were killed by the Romans, and over one hundred thousand taken captive, when Titus captured the city.”

“and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

Read Romans 11:25

7. What verses can you find about Gentiles being included in the gift of salvation?

It certainly sounds like God knows the exact number of Gentiles whose names are written in The Book of Life. The Great Commission commanded that the Gospel be preached in all Nations.

Matthew 28:19,20 *“Go, therefore, and make **disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Luke 21:25-33

8. Jesus tells the Parable of the fig tree. How does this relate to His Second Coming?

Jesus is now telling them about His coming at the end of the Tribulation.

I love how even in the midst of chaos that the world will be going through, Jesus gives assurance and hope. Isn't that what He does for us when we are in the midst of trials in our own lives? The Holy Spirit is our great comforter. No matter what He allows, if we listen, we will hear Him say, *"lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* No one or no circumstance can ever take away our salvation and the hope that we will, for eternity, be with the Lord, without any pain, any suffering, any sinful desires that steal peace from our relationship with the Lord. His Word assures us of this.

Keep your head up, Princess!

9. What scripture examples can you find that reminds you of this important Truth?

Verse 32

There are a few different interpretations to the word "generation" in this verse.

"Genea can mean three things: (1) the descendants of a common ancestor; (2) a set of people born at the same time; (3) the period of time occupied by such a set of people, often in the sense of successive sets of people. It cannot be said...therefore, that *genea* necessarily means generation." (Pate)

Warren Wiersbe- "To what "generation" does Luke 21:32 apply? Some who doubt that Jesus will literally return say that this statement applies to the generation of the apostles, so that "the coming of the Lord" was either the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2) or the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. But none of the signs Jesus mentioned took place before or during those events. Nor did they climax with the deliverance of Israel and the establishing of the kingdom. Jesus was probably referring to the generation that would be alive on earth at the time all these things take place. He was not suggesting that it would take a whole generation to accomplish these things, for they will occur with swiftness once they begin. The Greek word translated

“generation” can also mean “race” and could refer to the people of Israel. Jesus used it that way in Mark 8:12, 38; 9:19. Jesus was assuring the disciples that, in spite of all the difficulties Israel would endure, the nation would be protected by God and not be destroyed. Satan has wanted to destroy the nation of Israel, but he will not succeed.”

Luke 21:34-38

Charles Spurgeon shows the perspective we should have as we wait for the Lord’s return as he wrote:

“All that you can see in this world, you are to regard as being doomed to destruction; that destruction commenced, so to speak, when Jerusalem fell beneath the Roman sword. Everything earthly is doomed. You are living, not in your eternal mansions but you are living a makeshift life; you are passing through a wilderness, you are pilgrims, you are sojourners; this is not your rest. Do not get to love this world, or to be taken up with it. Do not strike your roots into it; you are not to dwell here, and to live here always. You are walking among shadows; regard them as such. Hug them not to your bosom; feed not your souls upon them, lest, when that day comes, before whose coming all of them shall melt away, you shall be filled with amazement and shame.”

10. What are some practical things you can do to ensure you have the correct mindset about where you are now and where you are going?

Habakkuk 2:3

“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hurries toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it delays, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay long.”

Hebrews 10:37-39

“37FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,

HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

38BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH;

AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. 39But [m]we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith for the safekeeping of the soul.”

2Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”

Revelation 22:20

***“He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.”
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”`***