

The Great Physician

Luke 21:1-20

- After being questioned by the religious leaders and exposing their hypocrisy Jesus is now focused on those who truly desire to know what the will of God is. In this chapter Jesus' followers are curious about the future and what they should be looking out for, and Jesus is going to tell them that in order for them to get ready for the future one must live Godly in the present.

V1-20

- **V1-2** Jesus has just exposed the religious leaders' selfishness and greed by telling everyone of their attitudes toward the widows, and how they saw them as nothing more than prey to take advantage of, by stealing their money and resources and using it for their own fleshly desires. In contrast to them Jesus points out a widow and highlights her selflessness and sacrifice in the way she gave of her resources. In **Mk 12:41** of this same event Mark says Jesus sat opposite the treasury in an unnoticeable place and purposely watched as everyone came by and gave.
- Before we get into how much this widow gave let's talk about how the Lord pays attention to what we offer and give in His name. Remember no matter what wrong motives the religious leaders had the Lord still watched to see what people were giving. This means God will judge those who dishonestly take what others have given in the name of the Lord and use it for their own benefit, but He also rewards those who give having a desire to further the Kingdom of God.
- How do you know? At the temple there is a line of rich people putting in a lot of money for the upkeep and needs of the temple, in line as well there's this widow who also is there to give of her resources. We're not told exactly what the rich people gave but we are told what the widow gave and it wasn't much when you total it up in terms of dollars and cents. In that day it took 16 mites to make a penny so her two mites was the equivalent of her giving an eighth of a penny.
- **V3-4** But yet Jesus' comment after observing the rich give along with this widow was "what this poor widow gave was more than what the rich gave". Jesus gives His reasoning for saying this and it was what the widow gave it was all she had, that meant those two mites that didn't add up to much was **100%** of everything she had, but the rich who gave from their abundance could have afforded to give much more but they chose not to.
- A case in point if the school board says they are in need of funds to pay for students' school books and computers and someone steps up and says they'll donate **5,000** and all they have in the bank is **10,000**, and their yearly salary is **40,000** that is a tremendous sacrifice. Also if someone says they will donate **100,000** which is much more than **5,000** but they have **25** million in the bank and make **15** million a year, although their gift is much more the sacrifice is not because truth be told they could have afforded to give a whole lot more than they did.

- This widow gave sacrificially out of her poverty while the rich gave from their abundance, her two mites represented the most that we can give, as God doesn't just see the portion He sees the proportion. Winston Churchill said "**we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give**". So in God's economy its not the amount that we give but what it cost you to give.
- **V5-7** speaking of giving look at how beautiful our temple is with all the gold plates covering the outside of it and the beautiful stones embedded inside of it, think about how much it must cost to build and keep it looking magnificent Jesus. In **Ezra 6:15** the temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel and Ezra and greatly expanded by Herod, it was the center of Jewish life for almost a thousand years, it was so revered that it was customary that when people wanted others to believe them they would swear by it and speaking against it was blasphemy > **Math 26:61, Acts 6:13**.
- Jesus tells them that in the future not one stone of this building is going to be left standing, so to put your trust and hope in this structure is futile, sure enough in forty years the Jews will rebel and Rome will come into Jerusalem to crush the rebellion and level the temple just as Jesus said. The listeners of course want to know more, **Math 24:3** says this happened while Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, so He has left the temple and while leaving the disciples were marveling at it.
- **V8-11** in answering their questions Jesus starts out by telling them beware of deception, before these things happen and the sign will be people are going to be coming to you in My Name. In the first thirty years of Jesus being crucified there were more false Christ's and Messiah's than Israel had ever seen, the counterfeit came out of the woodwork once the church started > Galatians was Paul's first book written to the churches, written less than twenty years after Jesus crucifixion and its full of warnings to the church to not be deceived > **Gal 1:8, 3:1**.
- He tells them that there will be rumors floating around about wars and conflicts, so much so that people will begin to have these wild speculations because that is what this produces, as man is all about self-preservation so when he hears he might be in trouble what is he going to do? Try and save himself, and that is when he causes more trouble for himself, Jesus says these things must happen first because they are a part of God's plan for Israel, so don't be terrified.
- **V12-15** also not only will the temple and Jerusalem be in trouble, so will you, people are going to hunt you, deliver you to those who are deceiving the people right now and they will cast you into prisons. They also will declare you enemies of the state and therefore make you fugitives that have to go into hiding and when they catch you instead of prison you will be killed, and all this will happen for My Name's sake. What should be their response to all this?
- Settle it in your hearts > **Acts 11:21-23**- believers need to with purpose of heart follow the Lord, because this is not a might but a fact, also don't try and make up reasons for why you follow Me, God will give you the answers to share with anyone who asks, even those who persecute you. **V16-20** Jesus even says family members even parents will give you up to save themselves from the persecution that is coming, so to walk with Me is to expect betrayal, rejection, isolation.

- The word patience here means “strong endurance” it comes from having an eternal perspective and not a temporal perspective. What Jesus describes here is not what those who are following Him are expecting, remember they thought by serving Jesus it would give them a hope and a future, but what He is saying leaves no hope and a bad future. But Jesus says not a hair on their head will be lost, that means the Lord will never leave them nor forsake them.
- Yes we will be persecuted, distressed, suffer, but in all this we must never despair, for in these things we have the opportunity to witness to the world our soul saving faith. The world is looking for solutions from the world, it will only find false hope, lies, and frustration, but we have the truth, and it will only be believed when people see us enduring trials by facing them with courage and faith in Jesus, anything less they’ve seen before and know that doesn’t work.