



First Baptist Church Selmer

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE • THE 2ND COMING • LUKE 21:5-19 • 3/26/2023

MAIN POINT

As we closer to the last days, we should not be frightened or worried but should focus our attention on the words and promises of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Do you think it's important to know what the Bible says about the end times? Why or why not?

Why do you think Jesus taught often about the events of the future?

Do you believe Jesus will return in your lifetime? Your children's?

So many have attempted to predict the return of Christ without success. Movements and "so-called" prophets have come and gone with a specific day in mind.

There is an old story about a man that had an antique grandfather clock. The clock always kept the perfect time.

One night, at midnight, the man was awakened by the chiming of the clock. One, two, three... twelve... thirteen...fourteen...fifteen.

The man reached over and shook his wife. You need to wake up. She replied, "What is wrong? And what time is it?"

The man replied, "I don't know but it is later than it has ever been!"

We aren't given details of Christ's imminent return, but we know this, it is later than it has ever been.

As Jesus drew closer to the time of His crucifixion, He prepared His disciples for what they would experience in the near and distant future. Christ has promised that one day He will return, and our greatest hope is in His coming. In light of Jesus' return, we are to be on guard to avoid behavior that would deny His return, and we are to be ready to face Him when He does come back.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 21:5-9.

5 "And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, 6 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.' 7 And they asked him, 'Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?' 8 And he said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. 9 And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.'" (ESV)

When the people heard Jesus tell about the destruction of the temple, what two questions did they ask?

Flip in your Bibles and compare today's passage with Mark 13:1-8. Why did the disciples ask their questions privately?

What are two words that summarize Jesus' answer?

From Mark's account in Mark 13:1-13, we know that the conversation that began with Jesus announcing the destruction of the temple continued with the two sets of brothers on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, opposite and above the temple. Zechariah 4:1-4 predicts that Christ will stand precisely there upon His return. This return will not be a secret! It will be obvious to all believers.

The disciples asked Jesus to tell them when these things would occur, meaning the events surrounding the temple's destruction. The second part of their question focused on the request for a sign so they would know when the predicted event would take place.

Do you think we see or experience any “signs of the times” today? If so, which ones?

How do you answer someone who asks, “When will these things happen?”

As believers today, we need to understand the necessity of separating false announcements and signs about Jesus’ return from true prophetic pronouncements. Christians cannot look forward to the second coming with confidence unless they ignore false announcements and false signs about Jesus’ return.

According to Luke 21:9, “These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.” Read Mark 13:10. Why won’t the end come right away?

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 21:10-19.

10 "Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. 12 But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness. 14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. 17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.'" (ESV)

What will happen to the disciples and the church during this time Jesus prophesied about?

What comfort will come in the midst of these trials? Why is this truth a source of hope and encouragement for us today?

What does it look like to “stand firm” to the end in the midst of these final days?

Before international warfare and natural chaos come, the church will face persecution. Belief in Christ and His name will be cause enough to be put in jail and punished by the government. The road of gospel advance has been paved with the blood of martyrs. As Jesus’ return draws near, persecution will come our way. So, how will we respond when it does? We can use it as an opportunity to talk about the hope we have in Jesus and rest peacefully knowing our eternity is secure in Christ.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How do these truths about the future affect the way you should live your life today?

Would you say you live your life expectantly in the hope of Jesus' return? What are some signs you do? What are some signs you don't?

How can we help each other in the times we are living in?

PRAYER

Ask God to remind you to watch and wait well. Thank the Holy Spirit for the energy to do kingdom work and the words to share a gospel witness. Praise Jesus for telling us the end of the story, and reminding us that He is its hero.

COMMENTARY

| LUKE 21:5-19

21:5-6. Jesus' teaching in the temple, which began in Luke 19:45, concludes with a long eschatological discourse involving the destruction of the temple-Jerusalem and the end of the world. Although Luke already has presented various teachings of Jesus on this subject (12:35-48; 13:35; 17:20-37; 19:41-44), he, like Mark and Matthew, included these additional teachings on the subject because of their importance. He used this opportunity to clarify several misconceptions concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world. As the disciples called attention to the magnificent stones and offerings that adorned the temple, Jesus replied that the day would come when the temple would experience destruction, and that destruction would be so great that not one of these magnificent stones would remain standing upon another. What follows is the third and largest pronouncement of Jerusalem's destruction found in the Gospel (cf. 13:34-35; 19:41-44).

21:7-11. The parallel passages in Matt. 24 and Mark 13 focus primarily on the end of the age, while Luke is concerned mostly about the near-term destruction of the temple ("these things").

But verses 25-28 do speak of the second coming of Christ. The events leading to the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70 foreshadow the later time that leads up to Jesus' return. The appearance of false messiahs and date-setting schemes ("the time is near"), as well as widespread wars, will continue throughout the present age. However, these things must occur and are part of an expected delay before the end of the age.

21:11. Earthquakes... famines, and plagues of varied intensity will occur throughout history all the way to the end of the age. Great signs from heaven probably refer to such cosmic phenomena as that prophesied in Joel 2:28-32 and fulfilled in Revelation 6:13-14.

21:12-19. Having warned about the danger of being misled by false prophets and of a false interpretation of the events surrounding Jerusalem's fall, Luke then described the persecution that would come upon believers from government and from family and friends. Nevertheless, he reminded his readers that in the midst of such persecution, Jesus has promised wisdom and, to those who persevere, eternal life. These verses return to the discussion of the immediate circumstances of the apostles and their co-laborers in the gospel. Persecution by Jews (the synagogues) and Gentiles (kings and governors) will lead to opportunities to witness for Christ (Acts 4; 7; 22-24; 26). "I will give you such words" basically repeats Jesus' earlier promise in 12:11-12.

When troubles came upon them after Jesus' death, the disciples would draw comfort from their recollection of Jesus' forewarning that they would be hated and even betrayed by those closest to them. "Not a hair of your head refers to spiritual security." Endurance is not to be understood to mean that we earn salvation by our efforts to persevere. Rather, perseverance is required of every true believer in Jesus Christ. Ultimately the strength to endure is supplied by God.