

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 37: Luke 21:1-38

His words were not figments of imagination, tales told to strike fear in the hearts of men, mere words to coerce conformity. They were truth, words uttered to save men's souls from the coming judgment. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away"* (Luke 21:33, NKJV).

If they would treat His words as if life depended upon them, heeding His instruction, watching with fervency and expectancy, they would *"have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming"* (1 John 2:28, NKJV).

Read Luke 21:1-4.

1. Begin by reading the parallel account found in Mark 12:41-44. As He sat in the temple, Christ observed the offerings of men to the service of God. Does how and what we give reveal our heart toward God? Explain.
2. Jesus did not condemn the rich for their abundant offerings, but compared their gifts to the widow's. How were they different?
3. In Acts 5:1-11, a man and wife gave an extravagant gift to the Lord. What was their error? Why is one's motivation more important than the amount he gives?
4. Return to Luke 21. How would the widow's gift consequently affect her? What does this reveal about her relationship with God (Matthew 6:19-21, 24) and her love of the world (1 John 2:15-17)?

5. It is likely that the widow was one of many who had been marginalized, exploited, and oppressed by the sinful practices of a corrupt religious system. Turn to Deuteronomy and read 14:29, 24:19-21, and 26:12-13. What laws were instituted for the protection of those in a similar predicament? According to Luke 20:47, what was occurring instead?

6. What emphasis does this place on Jesus' statement: "*This woman has put in more than all*" (21:3)?

7. In 2 Samuel 24:24, David says, "*I [will not] offer... offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing*" (NKJV). The Message states it this way: "*I'm not going to offer God, my God, sacrifices that are no sacrifice.*" Why is this mindset pleasing to God?

Assess the giving of your time, talent, and treasure. Do you give to God out of your surplus or lack?

Now read Luke 21:5-19.

8. After they remarked on the beauty and magnitude (Mk 13) of the temple, Christ reminded His disciples of its demise, explaining both imminent and apocalyptic events.

What were Christ's disciples to look for to indicate that the temple would be destroyed? (vv.8-11)

9. What will life be like for Christ's followers during the period described? (vv.12-19) (Also see Matthew 24:4-14.)

16. In Matthew 24:3 the disciples inquire, “And what is the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?” Reread Luke 21:24, and then, Matthew 24:15-31.

What evidences indicate that the kingdom of God is drawing near?

17. Verse 32 of Luke 21 indicates that the generation which sees these signs will also see Christ coming in power to establish His kingdom. God will not prolong the Great Tribulation forever.ⁱⁱ

How does the Parable of the Fig Tree caution believers, call them to account, and inspire hope?

Read Luke 21:34-38.

18. Read Matthew 24:36-44 and then return to Luke 21. What emphasis does this place on one’s manner of life?

19. How is one to “take heed” to himself? Read Mark 4:19, Luke 12:35-48, Romans 13:11-14, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 1 Peter 4:7.

20. Return to Luke 21. Per verse 34, why will many, even professing Christians, be unprepared? (v.34)

21. Why is Christ’s return likened to a snare? (Think on Revelation 3:3, 16:15.)

22. How can we be confident in Him when He appears? Read 1 John 2:28.

ⁱ “We must **pray always**, that we may be found worthy to **escape all these things that will come to pass**. The good news in Jesus is that we don’t have to go through this calamity that is coming. He will take as many as are ready before this calamity begins.

a. Regarding the destruction of Jerusalem, those who listened to and obeyed Jesus escaped the horrible destruction that came upon the city.

b. Regarding the far greater destruction that is coming upon the whole earth, those who listen to and obey Jesus can escape the horrible destruction that will come.” (Guzik, D. (2013). *Luke* (Lk 21:29–33). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.)

ⁱⁱ Guzik, D. (2013). *Luke* (Lk 21:29–33). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.