

Sunday, September 29, 2024 | Holy Week

Week 6 | Luke 21:5-24 | "The End Is Near"

Last week, we saw Jesus go on the offensive by discussing three things: the divinity of the Messiah, the hypocrisy of the religious leaders, and the generosity of a widow. In doing so, we learned two things: the Son of David was also the Lord of David, and a modest but sacrificial donation eclipses a majestic but superficial devotion.

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**READ:** Luke 21:5-24 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, <sup>6</sup>“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.” <sup>7</sup>And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” <sup>8</sup>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.<sup>9</sup> 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.”

<sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup>There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>This will be your opportunity to bear witness. <sup>14</sup>Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup>for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers<sup>[c]</sup> and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish.<sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your lives.

<sup>20</sup>“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, <sup>22</sup>for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. <sup>23</sup>Alas for women who are

pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. <sup>24</sup> They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, he foretold of the city's *destruction* (cf. Lu. 19:43-44). He did not elaborate at the time, preferring to give only brief and cryptic details. In today's passage, the topic gets brought up again, and, as we'll see, *this time*, the Lord does not mince words. In fact, as his audience is in the very act of admiring the size and splendor of the Temple, the Lord reveals, "There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

Vs. 5-38 is known as the "Olivet Discourse," so called because the Lord stood on the Mount of Olives as he taught (cf. Mat. 24:3). Considering its size, it'll take two sermons to cover it. But don't let the name fool you. This passage has *nothing* to do with olives and *everything* to do with the *end times*.

You see, from the perspective of Jesus' audience, Jerusalem's destruction would seem so *cataclysmic* as to appear *apocalyptic*. And so, the Lord uses this sentiment to not only expound on the demolition of the Temple, but also on *Armageddon* itself. For Jesus, the two events are not so different. Thus, the *key* to understanding this passage is this: the fall of Jerusalem is the *prototype* for the end of the world! This means that by studying one, we study the other.

**Five** virtues will prepare the apostles for the fall of Jerusalem:

i. Vs. 5-8 – A **Discernment** to Recognize Imposters

"Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong; it is knowing the difference between right and almost right." – Spurgeon

**READ:** 1 John 4:1 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

ii. Vs. 9-11 – A **Composure** to Undergo Catastrophes

"The remarkable things about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else." – Oswald Chambers

**READ:** Psalm 46:1-13 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

iii. Vs. 12-15 – A **Bravery** to Suffer Persecutions

“Jesus never asked anyone to play it safe. We were born to be brave.” – Bob Geoff

**READ:** Matthew 10:32 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

iv. Vs. 16-19 – A **Fortitude** to Endure Heartbreak

“Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things. Outlook determines outcome. If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory.” - Warren Wiersbe

**READ:** Hebrews 10:36-39 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> For you have **need of endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; <sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith, and **if he shrinks back**, my soul has **no** pleasure in him.” <sup>39</sup> But **we** are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and **preserve** their souls.

v. Vs. 20-24 – A **Readiness** to Avoid Utter Destruction

“He who loves the coming of the Lord is not he who affirms that it is far off, nor is it he who says it is near, but rather he who, whether it be far off or near, awaits it with sincere faith, steadfast hope, and fervent love.” – Augustine

**READ:** Matthew 24:42-44 (ESV)

<sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**So, what's the takeaway?**

If these virtues helped the **Apostles** prepare for Jerusalem's fall, they will also help the **Christian** prepare for the world's end.

## **Video Description:**

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SPEAKER: Ben Hyrne, Pastor

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**Pastor’s manuscript can be found here:**

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