

## Luke Twenty One

### Luke 21:1-4

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on."

- The treasury is name of section of Court of the Women—in the Temple—where there were 13 trumpet shaped collection boxes
- Poor widow=penicha—since widows were left with no means of earning money—they were the poorest of all people
- 2 copper coins—lepta—a small Jewish coin (only Jewish money mentioned in New Testament)
- It was equivalent of 1/8 of U.S. penny
- Commentators say you could not give less than 2 leptas in an offering—so this was minimum offering
- Jesus blesses widow—she gave more than all of them—if the measure is: what is left over after giving—she surpasses them all

### Luke 21:5-6

And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, "As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."

- Description of Temple is found in writings of Josephus—The Jewish Wars, Book 5, Section 5. He describes some of the stones of this Temple being 45 cubits long. Construction of this Temple began in 20-19BC and was completed in AD 64—shortly before its' destruction

- Votive gifts—given for decoration of Temple
- This discourse concerning future events captures two distinct time periods
- Some of His language in this discourse sounds like passages in the Old Testament—II Chron 15:6, Is 8:21, Is 13:13, Jer 34:17
- Disciples request sign of coming destruction
- This prophecy will be fulfilled within 40 years

### **Luke 21:7-9**

And they questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things be? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” And He said, “See to it that you be not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is at hand’; do not go after them. “And when you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.”

- Jesus was able to read the signs of His time/history
- Jesus does not answer by giving a single sign
- Jews split time into two categories: The present age----and the age to come. In between there would be: The Day of the Lord ( Is 13:9-13, Joel 2:1-2, Amos 5:18-20, Zeph 1:14-18, I Thes 5:2, II Pet 3:10)
- Matthew and Mark also cover some of this material
- Warning: don’t be led astray—many false Christs will come and there will be partial fulfillment. The false will spring up as well as the True ( Matt 13—parable of tares, and warning to Ephesian elders about wolves)
- Vs 8-11---given as response to their first question: When shall these things be?
- Natural circumstances—among the nations and signs in the heavens will help indicate times

- His warnings include the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70—as well as events at the end of the age. Jesus intertwines the two together—showing simultaneous fulfillments during different ages
- When Jerusalem falls—after a great siege— inhabitants are reduced to cannibalism and city falls—stone by stone

### **Luke 21:10-15**

Then He continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. “But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. “It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. “So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

- Vs 10-11—given in answer to question: What shall be the sign when it is near?
- But before all these things—indicates 2 distinct times of trial/sorrow ahead
- Vs 12 onward—disciples will experience between crucifixion and fall of Jerusalem
- This troubling season will also be a time of heightened persecution of believers. He will be our source in the midst of affliction/persecution
- Before there is world trouble—there will be church trouble
- Synagogues were the center of Jewish life and education—conflict will continue to arise in the midst of religious community
- God will give His people the opportunity to bear witness concerning Him
- Prepare beforehand=promote=meditate beforehand

### **Luke 21:16-19**

“But you will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all on account of My name. “Yet not a hair of your head will perish. “By your endurance you will gain your lives.

- Trouble will be so significant—families will be divided
- Through persecution—God will be triumphing over His enemy
- Gospel will spread in the midst of adversity
- The world will hate believers—as they hated Christ
- Perseverance is required in the midst of suffering
- Two things shared that seem to be in conflict: some will be put to death/not a hair of your head will perish
- Betrayal will come from family—explains why Jesus insists on putting Him first—before family

### **Luke 21:20-24**

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled. “Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people, and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

- Vs 20—exact sign given
- Vs 21-24—takes place in 70 AD

- Vs 24—encompasses a long period of time
- This section is about the destruction of Jerusalem—not just the end times
- Some commentators say—that based on verse 20—Jerusalem had already fallen before Luke's gospel is written—did not understand Jesus had given a clear prophecy
- In time of war—people often fled to cities—Jesus gives opposite instruction
- When Rome surrounded Jerusalem—most Christians fled to Pella—one of the cities of Decapolis—south of Sea of Galilee
- 1,100,000 were killed in the siege—97,000 taken prisoner
- Distress on the land—wrath on the people

### **Luke 21:25-28**

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. “And then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. “But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

- In the midst of these chaotic times—mankind will not understand all that is taking place around him
- When Jesus begins to speak of heavenly signs—He begins to speak of second coming
- Those who don't know Christ—will faint in terror
- Coming in glory—points to royal power
- Need to be on watch—live in expectation

### **Luke 21:29-33**

And He told them a parable: “Behold the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. “Even so you, too, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

- This little parable is in all the gospels
- Appearance of leaves on tree indicate summer is near
- Fig tree—picture of Israel—it will begin to put forth life in the last days
- Appearance of signs—indicate state of Kingdom
- Jesus doesn't give His disciples specific dates
- Farmers/gardeners don't operate by dates but by conditions they observe

### **Luke 21:34-38**

“Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. “But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Now during the day He was teaching in the temple, but at evening He would go out and spend the night on the mount that is called Olivet. And all the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple to listen to Him.

- Followers must live in the light of God's Kingdom—even as they face imminent conflicts in the kingdom of the world
- Dissipation=kraipale=the hangover after drunkenness
- We are not to become dull, insensitive, during the trials that lie ahead
- Watch and pray is our antidote in times of suffering



# Luke Chapter Twenty One Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Read Hebrews 10:23-25 and 32-39. How do these verses prepare you for a season of trials and suffering?

## Dig:

- 1) By reading Luke 21:1-5, where is this conversation taking place?
- 2) How does Jesus conclude that the widow gave more?
- 3) What verse becomes the turning point for the rest of the chapter?
- 4) When asked, "when therefore will these things be", in Luke 21:7, does Jesus ever answer this question?
- 5) Along with describing future events and conditions, Jesus gives some specific warnings. What are they?
- 6) What phrases indicate a time separation in Luke 21:8-36?
- 7) As Jesus describes these days, what seems to be the reason behind the persecutions?
- 8) How long will Jerusalem be trampled by Gentiles? What does this mean?
- 9) Which signs are supernatural in verses 8-36?

10) Which signs are due to the fullness of sin being expressed?

**Discuss:**

- 1) What quality is God trying to develop in our character in this chapter? How do we cooperate with Him?
  
- 2) How prepared is the Church to navigate a season of suffering?
  
- 3) What interrupts our ability to thrive in the midst of suffering?
  
- 4) How is your generation most open to Christ? How is your generation most opposed to Christ?

**Point of Prayer:**

Pray for a ministry in your city that ministers to the poor.

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Who challenges you to be generous?
  
- 2) When have the poor modeled generosity for you?
  
- 3) As you watch Jesus demonstrate the Kingdom and the ways of the Kingdom— what has been most challenging?

- 4) From what you know about the return of Christ, what causes you any fear or anxiety?
  
- 5) From what you know about the return of Christ, what produces anticipation or joy?
  
- 6) How do you guard yourself from deception?
  
- 7) Do you read about or listen to the news? Why? Why not?
  
- 8) How do you stay connected to the conditions in the world around you?