

Luke 21 - Jesus' Counsel for Troublesome Times

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Luk 21:1-4 NIV As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "**this poor widow has put in more than all the others.** 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she **out of her poverty** put in all she had to live on."

1) Don't let your circumstances dictate your trust or obedience

Troublesome Times: A poor widow

- She was poor - troublesome because of lack of resources
- She was a widow - troublesome because she faced life alone
- She gave more - the VALUE was about heart HEART - not the amount
- She had a heart of TRUST & which enabled SACRIFICIAL giving
 - 2Co 8:1-3 NIV And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in **rich generosity.** 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

Jesus was about to die and go to heaven. The disciples were to face difficult times. We live in troublesome times...maybe we can learn from this

Luk 21:5-24 NIV Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, 6 "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." 7 "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

An Amazing statement: *[Some of these stones weighed between 2 and 5 tons]*

[When will this happen]: - Jesus didn't give them a date

He was prophesying about a future event that took place about 40 yrs later

This took place in AD 70

- *When at last the walls were breached Titus tried to preserve the Temple by giving orders to his soldiers not to destroy or burn it. But the anger of the soldiers against the Jews was so intense that, maddened by the resistance they encountered, they disobeyed the order of their general and set fire to the Temple. There were great quantities of gold and silver there which had been placed in the Temple for safekeeping. This melted and ran down between the rocks and into the cracks of the stones. When the soldiers captured the Temple area, in their greed to obtain this gold and silver they took long bars and pried apart the massive stones. Thus, quite literally, not one stone was left standing upon another.¹*

¹ <http://www.templemount.org/destroy2.html>

How Did Jesus Prepare His Disciples for Time of Trouble?

8 He replied: "***Watch out that you are not deceived.*** For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.

This event is pretty distant from them

vs 8 - Temple destroyed

“(When will these things be)” - well not yet - They will say “The time is near” Don’t follow them.

- ***Don't be deceived***
- ***This is good counsel even for our day***
 - *1Ti 4:1 NIV The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*

9 When you hear of wars and uprisings, ***do not be frightened.*** These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." 10 Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and ***fearful events*** and great signs from heaven.

This event is getting a little closer to home

vs 9 - Wars - natural disasters - famines and pestilence - **fearful events**

- ***Don't be frightened*** - He is in Control
- He has all under control - (when will these things be?) these things MUST happen first
- **Don't be afraid - He KNOWS and he HOLDS the future**
 - Psa 34:4 KJV I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

12 "But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 And so you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your mind ***not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves.*** 15 For ***I will give you words*** and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

This event is getting VERY close to home

vs 12 - Persecution, prisons

- ***Don't worry*** - His presence is with us...
- What looks bad will turn to something good - you will bear testimony to me
- He has a bigger plan that leads to His glory
 - Psa 118:6 NIV The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you **to death**. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 ***Stand firm, and you will win life.***

This event is right inside my home

vs 16 - betrayed by family and put to death, hated

- ***Stand Firm***
- You will win life...eternal life wins out in the end...

What shall be the sign that they are about to take place?

20 "**When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.** 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. 22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles **until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

When Titus came with the Roman troops and besieged Jerusalem, they killed 1,100,000 Jews...During one period of time they were crucifying up to 500 per day [they were trying to get out, but it was too late - the siege had begun - The Romans carried away the remaining 97,000 as captive. They were carried away captive into all nations and the prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled.

Until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled

- So part of this chapter is talking about what happened in AD 70
- And part of this chapter is forward looking unto the 2nd coming of Christ
- But the counsel Jesus gave is good for all time and all people who are facing trouble
- It is good counsel for us in our troubled days and as we move closer to the 2nd coming of Christ

Until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled

“Fullness of the Gentiles” = “times of the Gentiles” - current - still happening

- similar message in Rom 11:25 - ...” blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the **fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**“

Other verbiage that seems to move this to the Last Days

25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. **On the earth, nations** will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 **At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**

Signs in the sun moon and stars - points to the last days

- Act 2:20 ESV ...20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, **before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.**

The focus moves from local geography to worldwide

- No longer speaking only of people who are living in Jerusalem & Judea (vs 20 & 21) now...but ON EARTH and NATIONS
- No longer speaking of Jerusalem surrounded by armies, but the Son of Man coming in a cloud

The sign of the son of Man coming on the clouds - points to His 2nd return

- Mat 24:29-31 ESV "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

He comes with clouds

- Rev 1:7 KJV Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and **lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.** 29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34 **"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.** 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Be always on the watch, and pray** that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." 37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, 38 and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

Lift up your heads, don't fear and don't worry - our redemption is near

- THE EARTH IS NOT OUR HOME - Learning to be pilgrims
- The coming of the kingdom is a certainty
- **Be Careful** your hearts will be weighed down with the cares of this life
- Watch and Pray

In Troublesome times:

Rom 8:35 NIV Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble...?

Joh 16:33 NIV In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."