

Luke 21

- I. 21:1-4 The Widow's Gift
- II. 21:5-6 The Temple's Beauty
- III. 21:7-38 Teaching on the Mount of Olives
 - A. 21:7 The Questions of the Disciples
 - B. 21:8 Don't Be Deceived
 - C. 21:9 Don't Be Afraid
 - D. 21:10-19 Don't Be Discouraged
 - E. 21:20-24 The Future of Jerusalem
 - F. 21:25-28 The Second Coming of Christ
 - G. 21:29-38 Do Watch and Pray Expectantly

I. 21:1-4 The Widow's Gift

- A. The widow's gift was small, maybe 1% of a working man's daily wages.
- B. Jesus was looking not only at the worship in the Temple, but also at the heart of the worshipers. He knew what this small gift cost her.
 - i. Luke 16:14 tells us that the Pharisees were “lovers of money”.
 - ii. In 20:47 Jesus criticized the scribes for “devouring widows' houses”.
 - iii. These men were greedy, the widow was obviously generous.
- C. God doesn't measure our giving by the size of the gift, but by how much we keep for ourselves.
 - i. Had she given only *one mite*, that would still have been a lot – half of all she had! And yet she gave both mites – everything she had to live on. That's how she gave *more than all*.

II. 21:5-6 The Temple's Beauty

- A. About 40 years later this was fulfilled to the letter.
 - i. Herod the Great started the work of expanding and renovating the Temple in 19 B.C.
 - ii. It wasn't completed until 63 A.D., under one of his descendants.
 - iii. In 70 A.D., the Romans, led by Titus, fulfilled this prophecy of Christ.

III. 21:7-38 Teaching on the Mount of Olives

- A. 21:7 The Questions of the Disciples
 - i. It's helpful to blend these questions with those recorded by Matthew to help explain why Jesus jumps here into end times prophecy along with the destruction of Jerusalem. Matthew also gives us the setting up front – a short time later on the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 24:3 (NKJV) Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

B. 21:8 Don't Be Deceived

- i. History is full of messianic charlatans. Don't pay any attention to them.
- ii. Deception is a characteristic feature of the last days. The best way we can steer clear of deception is by knowing the truth.

John 8:31-32 (NKJV) ³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

C. 21:9 Don't Be Afraid

- i. *commotions* = "instabilities" God's people are sometimes deeply unsettled by catastrophic events – assuming that each new calamity must be a sign of the end. Jesus says "The end will not come immediately." It's not any one disaster, but the *increasing frequency and intensity* of disasters that point to the coming climax of history.

Matthew 24:8 (NKJV) All these are the beginning of sorrows [birth pangs].

D. 21:10-19 Don't Be Discouraged

- i. Difficult circumstances, like persecution, can easily lead us to discouragement. It takes a composed, deliberate attitude check to keep us in the right frame of mind. Here are a couple of verses that can help.

Joshua 1:9 (NKJV) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Romans 12:21 (NKJV) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

E. 21:20-24 The Future of Jerusalem

- i. 21:20-21 Jesus warns of the future destruction of the city and warns anyone listening to Him to flee as they see the armies gathering.
 - a) Jerusalem's Christians took this to heart. The story is told of believers fleeing across the Jordan River to city called Pella. Though not a single Jew was left alive in the city, the church of Jerusalem managed to escape.
- ii. 21:22 *that all things which are written may be fulfilled* Daniel gives one example of the "things which are written". He records the foretelling of Jerusalem's destruction after the death of Messiah.

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV) And ... Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

That verse also tells of a *prince* who will arise well after Jerusalem's fall.

- iii. 21:24 Daniel 2 clarifies *the times of the Gentiles*. They started at the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. We are still in the midst of them today. The Jews once again own Jerusalem, but the most important place in it prophetically is the Temple Mount. That is still under Arab control. The times of the Gentiles will end at the Second Coming of Christ.

F. 21:25-28 The Second Coming of Christ

- i. Prior to the Lord's return there will be an unprecedented time of trouble. Jesus described it elsewhere as follows:

Matthew 24:21 (NKJV) For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

- ii. 21:25 *Perplexity* here means “no way out”.
- iii. Anyone alive during that time is encouraged to take heart despite the great difficulties, because the Kingdom Age will be about to begin.

G. 21:29-38 Do Watch and Pray Expectantly

- i. 21:29 *the fig tree* Time moves in a natural rhythm. When the fig tree, or any tree, buds, we think, “Spring is here!” There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Spring inevitably leads to Summer. When the signs of Christ's coming, the events of that great tribulation, begin, the coming itself is soon to follow.
- ii. 21:32 *This generation* Those who see the coming will also have seen the signs.
- iii. 21:33 This verse speaks for itself regarding the certainty of what Christ is saying. Circle it, mark it, underline it. This may be the key verse in the chapter.
- iv. 21:34-35 *Take heed* But for us, living now before that time begins, Jesus issues a warning. We need to stay alert; we need to be watchful, because many will be caught off guard.
- v. 21:36 *escape* Our goal is not to survive the events of that time of Tribulation – to hunker down and build bunkers in the mountains until the smoke clears. Our goal is to escape those events. How? By *standing before the Son of Man*.

Jesus promised to come back for His bride to take us to be with Him. That's what we're hoping, waiting, and watching for. Before Jesus left this earth He left us with this promise:

John 14:3 (NKJV) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.