

3. Watching & Waiting for the End

Luke 21:5-38

How do you normally react when you hear people talking about ‘the end of the world’?

Don't be Deceived

Read verses 5-9

(1) What are the disciples asking Jesus to explain? What do you think they mean by ‘these things’?

(2) Jesus begins answering by giving a warning. What do they need to ‘watch out’ for? Why would this be a danger?

(3) From what Jesus says in verses 8-9, how is he challenging the disciples’ assumptions about ‘these things’?

Read verses 9-11, 20-33

Jesus speaks about the coming destruction of Jerusalem, which he has already predicted (cf. 19:41-44) and explains how this coming terrible event does (and doesn't!) relate to the final ‘day of the LORD’ at the end of time.

(4) What does he want us to understand about the **timing** of these events? Consider verses...

9 (cf. Mark 13:32-33):

20, 24:

32:

(5) What does he want us to understand about the **significance or meaning** of the destruction of Jerusalem? Consider verses...

22 (cf. Luke 11:47-51):

28-31:

In verses 10-11 & 25-26, Jesus alludes to various Old Testament passages which speak of the judgement of God and the great day of the LORD. (for example: Isaiah 13:6-7,10-13, 19:2; Ezek 32:7-8; Joel 2:10, 30-31)

(6) Why do you think he does this? How might it relate to the destruction of Jerusalem and what he wants us to understand about this great event?

(7) How then does the fall of Jerusalem relate to verse 27?

Reflect...

Summarise in your own words what Jesus wants his disciples to understand about the fall of Jerusalem and the end of the world...

What are some of the contemporary ideas about signs and the end of the world that we should avoid in light of Jesus teaching?

Don't be Distracted

Read Verses 34-36

(8) What challenge or application does Jesus give us in light of his teaching?

(9) What aspects of life are most likely to distract you from actively watching and waiting for the return of Christ?

(10) What will help us to actively wait for Christ as we 'get on with life' in this world?

Don't be Discouraged

Read Verses 12-19

Jesus explains to his followers that before Jerusalem is destroyed, they will be heavily persecuted as his followers. What he says here is played out quite literally in the book of Acts, but we know Jesus is also explaining what it's like to be his disciples in any time and place in the 'last days' (cf. John 15:18-20, 2 Tim. 3:12).

(11) Rather than praying to endure persecution faithfully (cf. v36), what are some of the common and unhelpful responses to hardship?

(12) How should we ultimately understand the purpose of persecution as a Christian? (v13)

(13) What promises does Jesus give us as we face it?

V14-15:

V18-19:

Pray

Pray together about the specific ways that you might be tempted to be deceived, distracted or discouraged as we wait for Christ, and that you might 'stand firm and win life'.