

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#83 – “God’s Judgment – A Sure Thing!” – Luke 21:5-19

I. Introduction

A. Concerns over the end of the country or even the end of the world!

1. World War II
2. Habakkuk 3:16
3. Jesus – loving, yes, but also a prophet of judgment
 - a. Jn 2:13-22; Mk 11:15-18; Lk 10; 13:34-35; 19:41-44

B. The Olivet Discourse

1. Luke 21; Matthew 24; Mark 13
2. Temple view from the Mount of Olives
3. Josephus’ remarks concerning the temple site. Nothing else like it throughout Palestine.
4. Much controversy surrounds orthodox views of interpreting Jesus’ remarks. (Matthew 24:35-36)

C. The text: Luke 21:5-19

II. Exposition

A. Luke 21:5-6

1. Mark’s account narrows the focus upon James, John and Peter – Mark 13:3.
2. They would have been astounded by what Jesus was saying.
3. Note the physical destruction of the temple used against Jesus.
 - a. Matt. 26:59-61; 27:39-40; Acts 6:13-14
4. Jesus’ prediction in accord with prophetic tradition
 - a. I Kings 9:6-9; Micah 3:12; Jer. 7:11-14; 26:1-19; Acts 7:48-50

B. Luke 21:7

1. Note correspondence with Matthew 24:3
2. The disciples surmised that the destruction of the temple coincided with the end of the world. Jesus will correct their perception.

C. Luke 21:8-9

1. Note correspondence with Matthew 24:4-8.
2. Do not be afraid – They would have reason to be fearful.
 - a. II Peter 3:7, 10
3. Note series of “Do Not”s:
 - a. Do not be misled.
 - b. Do not follow false christs.

c. Do not be terrified.

4. Jesus says these things must take place before the end, but he gives no indication when or what end he is speaking about – i.e. end of the temple/Jerusalem or end of the world.

D. Luke 21:10-11

1. Every one of these happenings took place prior to the Jewish insurrection of AD 66 and destruction of the temple in AD 70.
 - a. Nation rising against nation
 - b. Earthquakes
 - c. Famine
 - d. Signs in the sky

E. Luke 21:12-17

1. All of these persecutions happened to first century Christians.
 - a. The period of time traversed from the resurrection to the destruction of the temple in AD 70.
 - b. Examples from Luke’s second volume (Acts):
 1. Acts 3:11; 4:22; 5:17-42; 7:54-60; 12:1-2; 8:1-5; 16:16-24; 17:1-9; Acts 24 and 25
 2. Opportunity for witnessing – Luke 21:13
 3. God will supply wisdom when needed.
 - a. New Testament examples

F. Luke 21:18-19

1. “Soul” is a better translation that “lives”.
 - a. Jesus is speaking figuratively about our soul’s safety, not physical persecution – John 10:28-29

III. Points for Reflection

A. When Matthew and Luke’s accounts are compared, it becomes clear that certain aspects of travail will be apparent between the first and second advent.

1. Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10; Matt. 21:4-14

B. Calamities involving human tragedy are used by the Holy Spirit as trumpets that beckon people to stop, think, and repent.

1. Rev. 8:6; Rev. 9:20-21

C. The faithful are reminded to not fear and to prepare by being busy about your Father’s work.

1. Matt. 18:20; Luke 21:13