

Let's Worship God

21st-26th January 2019
Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 21:5-9 - The Temple

The disciples are praising the Temple for its beauty, size, grandeur, and cost. But they meet with no response from Jesus. Instead He replies with words very startling to these Jewish ears. They are spoken about a building that every Israelite thinks very highly of almost to the point of worship. It is a building containing the ark of the covenant and made according to God's directions. It is a building associated with the great men of Israel's past. It is a building towards which every faithful Jew turns his face in prayer. But Christ is trying to make the point that the true glory of a place of worship has nothing to do with its outward appearance but with the presence of the Holy Spirit. And this presence is missing from the Temple.

We should take care of the building we use to worship in. Whatever is done for Christ ought to be well done. The house in which the Gospel is preached, and the Word of God read, and prayer offered up, should be beautiful, clean, and safe. But we have to remember that the outward part of a church is not the most important part. The most beautiful churches are worthless in God's sight, unless there is truth in the pulpit, and a congregation growing in Christ. The temple that pleases our Lord most, is a broken and repentant heart, renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gives us a warning against deception. Many are constantly trying to tell us when the end of the world will be. There are many people who think they can prophesy about the end times. We must always be careful that we stick to the things we know that God has told us in His Word. If we don't, we will leave ourselves open to all sorts of lies.

Questions

1. Why do the Jews love the Temple?
2. Why should we take care of our church building?
3. How can we guard against being deceived?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we have a church building to worship in.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.” Luke 21:15

Praise: Psalm 15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 21:10-19 - Persecution and Hope

Christ does not prophecy smooth and easy things for His disciples. He does not promise them comfort, but persecution, imprisonment, betrayal, murder, and hatred. The book of Acts gives us many instances of the fulfilment of this prophecy. And the history of the church also shows us the truth of this prophecy. Wherever there have been followers of Christ, there has always been more or less persecution. We need to get our heads round the fact that a true Christian will suffer for being a Christian. Our best things are yet to come because this world is not our home. If we are definite, faithful servants of Christ, the world will certainly hate us as it hated our Master. No consistency of behaviour, no integrity, no kindness and friendliness, will exempt a believer from the world's dislike. It is foolish to be surprised at this, and it is a waste of time to complain about it.

But Christ also gives a great promise to His followers. He knows the hearts of His disciples. He understands that He has just told them something that could understandably scare them. So, He encourages them by promising that they will not perish. What does this mean? That they won't die? No, that would contradict not only what He just said, but the facts of history. What Jesus means is that no matter what suffering a Christian has to go through, the most important thing in his life, his faith, will not be destroyed. He still has eternal life with Christ in God. His treasure is still in Heaven, and his soul is beyond the reach of harm.

Questions

1. Why will Christians be persecuted?
2. How are we sometimes persecuted? What should our response be?
3. What promises does Christ give us?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.” Luke 21:15

Praise: Psalm 16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday - Luke 21:20-24 - Jerusalem Destroyed

The subject of these verses is the taking of Jerusalem by the Romans. The last days of that city are described by our Lord Jesus who has perfect knowledge of all events. He gives us a terrible picture of the miseries that are coming on Jerusalem. The distress of women, the slaughter of many Jews, the final scattering of Israel in captivity among the nations, and the destruction of the city by Gentiles are described by Christ. Knowledge of the future is a special characteristic of God, so we have here another proof that Christ is God. God's perfect knowledge should comfort us. We don't know what's going to happen in the future, but God does, He's planned it, and He's controlling it.

Jesus tells the believers that when it's time for Jerusalem to be destroyed, they should run away. There is nothing un-Christian about running from danger or protecting yourself. To meet death patiently and courageously is the duty of every believer, but to rush foolishly into danger is not what a wise Christian does.

The sins of the Jews have long been remembered by God, and the destruction of Jerusalem is the outpouring of His wrath against the Jews for centuries of disobedience. We must never think that the actions of wicked men or nations go unnoticed by God. All is seen, and all is known, and a day of judgement will come. God's punishment of sin does not always come quickly, but it does come.

Questions

1. What are these verses describing?
2. How are these verses a proof that Jesus is God?
3. What does Jesus tell Christians to do when Jerusalem is about to be destroyed?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our leaders - that they would make Godly decisions.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict." Luke 21:15

Praise: Psalm 17 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 21:25-33 - Power and Safety

The verses before us are given many different interpretations by Godly men who have spent long hours studying God's Word. Some think that they refer to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time to judge the world. Others think that they continue to refer to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. They describe the Romans as a tool used by the Son of God Himself to judge the Jews. They explain that Jesus always says that no one knows when He will come again, but these verses tell the disciples to watch for clear signs of the events He describes. They also bring up the fact that Jesus says that the event of these verses will happen before one generation has passed. Regardless of these different interpretations, there are several things we can learn from this passage.

First, Christ is powerful and He is a Judge. All too often our Lord is portrayed as a harmless, meek man. He is meek, but He also reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords. He has all power and rules over all things, and one day all will answer to Him.

Second, true Christians are safe in Christ. Jesus tells His disciples that the time of His power is a time of their redemption. The wrath of God will not be directed at the one who has come to Christ for forgiveness and trusted in Him as Saviour. The Christian's sins have already been paid for, and his eternal life awaits. The very day when the unbeliever will lose everything he has is the day the believer will receive his eternal reward.

Questions

1. What are two interpretations of these verses?
2. Why do we need to remember and say that Christ is a powerful Judge?
3. How can we be safe from the wrath of God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of your family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict." Luke 21:15

Praise: Psalm 18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 21:34-38 - Watch and Pray

Jesus has prophesied about events that are going to take place in the future, now He gives the disciples practical instructions about what they are to do in light of these future events. First, they are to be on guard against loving the world and the things of the world too much. Notice it is the disciples to whom He gives this warning. These are men who have given up everything for Christ's sake, and have proved the reality of their faith by loving obedience and firmly following their Master. Yet Jesus warns even them. And if they are in danger of loving the things of the world, how much more are we! We are all capable of this sin. It is not just the love of the world's evils that Christ warns us about, but an excessive love of the good things of the world - a love that puts those things and their worries and cares in the place of God in our lives. Let us remember to keep God first in our lives.

Jesus also tells His disciples to always be prepared to meet God. This also applies to us, not just because Christ can return at any time, but also we may die at any time. Whether a heart attack, a car crash, or cancer, death can come quickly to any of us. Are you prepared? If you do not live to see tomorrow, will you be ready to meet your Lord?

Christ finally tells His disciples to watch and pray. We are to watch. We are to live on our guard like men in an enemy's country. We are to remember that evil is around us, and near us, and in us. We must put on the armour of God and beware of spiritual sleep. We are to pray always. We are to keep up a constant habit of real prayer, speaking to God daily about our souls. We should pray especially for grace to overcome sin and anything that interferes with our relationship with God. And we should be careful of hurrying or shortening our prayers. Watch and pray.

Questions

1. What does Christ warn us against?
2. How can you be better prepared to meet God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would make us ready to meet Him at any time.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.” Luke 21:15

Praise: Psalm 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 22:1-13 - The Passover Lamb

The first step in putting Christ to death is taken by the religious teachers of the Jewish nation. The very men who ought to have welcomed the Messiah try to kill Him. We must not allow modern chief priests and scribes to make us crucify Christ again. We must test what the church leaders say by the Word of God.

The second step towards our Lord's crucifixion is the treachery of one of the twelve apostles. Judas Iscariot follows Christ all through His ministry. He hears Christ preach and sees Christ's miracles. He preaches himself and speaks like the other apostles. There is nothing to distinguish him from Peter, James, or John. But he is a hypocrite, betrays his Master, helps His enemies to kill Him, and dies in his sin. But why? Why does Judas betray Christ? Because he loves money. The religious leaders agree to pay him for his betrayal, and Judas' covetousness destroys his soul. Let us watch and pray against the love of money. A poor man is just as liable to it as a rich man. It is possible to love money without having it, and it is possible to have it without loving it. Let us be content with what we have.

Finally, we see in these verses the close connection between the Passover and our Lord's death. God's perfect wisdom and power arranges that the Lamb of God should die, at the very time when the Passover lamb is being slain. The death of Christ is the fulfilment of the Passover. He is the true sacrifice to which every Passover lamb has been pointing for 1500 years. What the death of the lamb has been to Israel in Egypt, His death is to be to sinners all over the world. The safety which the blood of the Passover lamb provides for Israel is to be provided far more abundantly by Christ's blood for all that believe in Him.

Questions

1. Why does Judas betray Christ?
2. How is Christ like the Passover lamb?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict." Luke 21:15

Praise: Psalm 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
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