

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 21

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 21:34* “Constantly be on your guard so that your hearts will not be loaded down with self-indulgence, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, or that day will take you by surprise.”

Day 2- Luke 21:1-4

Scholar's Note: The widow's two small coins were called lepta. The miniature lepton was worth only one four-hundredth of a shekel, or about one-eighth of a cent."¹

1. Jesus had just accused the Pharisees and Scribes of wanting to be acknowledged by everyone and of callously mistreating widows (20:46-47). The scene Jesus observes shows the truth of his words. This poor widow may have been an example of their mistreatment. What percentage of her income did the widow give according to Jesus in verse 4?
2. What principle can we glean from the fact that Jesus said in verse 3, that she put in more than all of them?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

2 Samuel 24:22-24 "Then Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king."... But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver."

-Why do you think King David would not give to God that which cost him nothing?

Picture and Ponder: Another way to look at this scene is that the poor widow is paying more dearly than any of the rich, for the religious system that the religious leaders had set up. The poor and vulnerable who have a special place in God's heart, are being hurt by a religious bureaucracy that had almost nothing to do with God. Jesus was again confronting the religious leaders with their lack of love for people, especially the lowly and marginalized.

Day 3- Luke 21:5-11

3. We know from the other gospels that Jesus leaves the temple for the last time and he and his disciples make their way to the Mount of Olives. His teaching that follows is known as the Olivet Discourse and is recorded in all four gospels. As they left the temple grounds and the disciples were admiring the beauty of the temple what did Jesus tell them in verse 6?

Scholar's Note: "His words would be fulfilled literally in A.D. 70, when the Romans, the human means of divine wrath, erected scaffolds around the walls of the temple and its buildings, filled them with wood and other flammable material, and set them on fire. The intense heat from the fires caused the stones to crumble. After it was further dismantled and sifted to find all the melted gold, the rubble was thrown down into the Kidron Valley." ²

Scholar's Note: "The prophecies Jesus makes in the Olivet Discourse have multiple fulfillments culminating in a final fulfillment."³

4. What does Jesus warn the disciples they should not be led astray by in verse 8?

Scholar's Note: "the period between Christ's first and second comings will be marked by three general categories of signs: deception (false Christians, false teachers, and a false church), disasters (both manmade and natural), and persecution of the true followers of Jesus Christ. All of those things will become increasingly severe as the time of Christ's return draws near."⁴

5. In verses 8-11 Jesus tells us what we can expect to happen between his first and second comings.
-What are the things that will happen?

-When we see these things what should we not conclude according to v.9b?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Revelation 6:4 "And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword."

Revelation 6:8 "And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth."

Revelation 16:18,20 "And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake...Every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found."

-Jesus told his followers there would be wars, famines, pestilence and earthquakes but in Mark 13 he says that those were like labor pains that would be happening for a while—we don't know how long. But as the "birth" gets closer the pains will get worse until the delivery—when Jesus comes again to

rule the earth. We see all these things in our world now, but according to Revelation, how much worse will these things get?



We have no problem seeing the sin and evil of the Holocaust and similar horrific events to be deserving of judgment, but do we cringe just a little at the severe judgment brought upon Israel and the rest of the unbelieving world for rejecting Jesus?

If the judgment is so severe what does that tell us about the sin? Rejecting Jesus is the worst sin anyone can commit because Jesus is the most glorious, holy, perfect, valuable treasure. One day we will all see Jesus as he is and then “every knee will bow on heaven, and on earth and under the earth and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...” (Philippians 2:10-11)

- ◆ What place does the “fear of the Lord” play in your daily life?
- ◆ Do you look at your sin as insulting and offensive to God?
- ◆ Does your life reflect that Jesus is the most valuable treasure?

Day 4- Luke 21:10-19

6. What does Jesus warn the disciples is going to happen to them before these signs take place according to verse 12?

7. How should they look at this suffering according to Jesus in verse 13?

-How can you use the suffering in your life as an opportunity to bear witness to who Jesus is?

8. What special gift did Jesus promise them in verses 14-15? (See Acts 4:1-14 to see one way this promise was fulfilled)

9. What other dire revelation did Jesus give them in verses 16-17?

10. In spite of persecution and even death how does Jesus give them encouragement in verses 18-19?

Picture and Ponder: "...saving faith is supernatural and divine, so that it cannot wane or die; the nature or essence of the gift of the faith is that it endures".⁵



The here and now loom so large in our minds that it is hard to grasp that, to Jesus, physically dying is the way we are ushered into real life. That is why he can say to those who will be martyred "not a hair of your head will perish" and "you will gain your life."

Those who are truly saved endure to the end. Trusting Jesus to the end is the evidence that we are truly saved. Those who trust to the end will experience the final phase of salvation- they will be glorified in heaven with Jesus. Since sorrow and persecution seem "light and momentary" (according to Paul in 2 Cor.4:17) in light of the glory to come, that glory must be beyond our wildest dreams. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

Incorporate these scriptures into your prayers asking God to help you be faithful and trusting God to keep you to the end.

- ◆ *"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever."* Jude 24-25
- ◆ *"And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming."* 1 John 2:28
- ◆ *"Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me."* Psalm 119:132-133
- ◆ *"Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."* Psalm 73:23-26

Day 5- Luke 21:20-38

11. Scholars differ on whether the destruction of Jerusalem in verse 20 is what took place in 70AD when the temple was destroyed or whether it is an event still to come. Either way, what else will take place according to verses 20 and 23b?

12. How long will Jerusalem be trampled by the Gentiles according to Jesus in verse 24?

Scholar's Note: The "times of the Gentiles" began with Jesus death and resurrection and will end with Jesus' second coming. According to Romans 11 this era is a time of evangelizing the Gentiles.⁶

13. Describe how people will be feeling during this terrible time of tribulation right before Jesus comes according to verses 25-26.

Picture and Ponder: "What Jesus is describing here is nothing less than God de-creating the world. At creation, God calmed the chaos and divided up the waters. He created light, the sun and the moon, and put the stars in the heavens. And so Jesus seems to be casting his return in terms of a picture of God rolling back his creation, undoing this world in preparation for a new one. God will de-create this world because the Son of Man is coming back in glory (v 27)."⁷

14. How will Jesus' second coming in verse 27, be so different from his first coming?

Picture and Ponder: "History's most momentous and widely viewed event demands a correspondingly dramatic backdrop. God will set the stage for Christ's return by extinguishing all the celestial lights (Matt. 24: 29; cf. Zech. 14: 6- 7), plunging the heavens into total darkness. With all of the world's attention focused on the blackness, Jesus will descend out of the darkened sky in blazing glory."⁸

15. Why does Jesus encourage his followers not to be afraid in verse 28?

- “The return of Christ is then the grand finale of the gospel. On the cross Jesus purchased our redemption; when he returns he will consummate it.”⁹ How does this impact your heart?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Daniel 7:13-14 “...and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

-These verses are a prophecy concerning the second coming of Christ. What is his kingdom on earth going to be like?

16. Even though heaven and earth as we know it will come to an end, what will always exist according to Jesus in verse 33?



The words of Jesus about his second coming can seem overwhelming and confusing for us, but regardless of that there are clear things we can hold on to—his words are true and he will one day judge sin and reign over all the earth.

We should not feel helpless and afraid in light of what Jesus has said; it is not the anticipation of his coming that makes our hearts weighed down, but the things of this world. Instead, as we wait for our redemption to draw near he tells us to watch ourselves and pray. Our hearts are weighed down with squandered time, health and energy that comes from excess, and with the cares of this world— making us unprepared for his coming.

One commentator reminds us, “Living in light of Christ’s return is a way of life that requires diligence, effort, and God’s help; no one will be found accidentally faithful on that last day. This is a complex chapter, with a very simple application: be careful and watchful and deliberate and prayerful about standing firm and looking forward today, so you will be able to stand on the last day.”¹⁰

- ◆ Jesus’ second coming and judgment will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. How should that motivate us?

- ◆ What things are a part of the way you live now that will seem foolish and regrettable when Jesus comes again?

- ◆ If you don't struggle with drunkenness like Jesus mentions, what excess in your life does weigh your heart down?

- ◆ How can you pray in light of Jesus' coming again?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Lane, William L. as quoted in Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), p.725

² MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). *Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series)* (Kindle Locations 26055-26058). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

³ Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), p.729

⁴ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). *Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series)* (Kindle Locations 27175-27177). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁵ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). *Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series)* (Kindle Locations 26761-26763). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁶ Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), p. 735

⁷ McKinley, Mike (2017-05-01). *Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You Book 14)* (p. 140). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

⁸ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). *Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series)* (Kindle Locations 26994-26997). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁹ McKinley, Mike (2017-05-01). *Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You Book 14)* (p. 141). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

¹⁰ Ibid.