



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of December 31, 2023

Sermon Text Luke 21:5-24

5 And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, 6 “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” 7 And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” 8 And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. 9 And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

10 Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. 12 But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness. 14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. 17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. 23 Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Christians are often drawn to self-made gurus who claim to have special insight and knowledge, especially when it comes to end-times prophecy? Why do you think Jesus warns us not to go after them?
2. When Jesus foretells of wars and tumults (a confused agitated time) how can He tell us not to be terrified? Shouldn't we be fearful? Why or why not?

3. Although Jesus paints a bleak picture of the end times, He also tells His followers that **“this will be your opportunity to bear witness”**. Why does Jesus tell Christians **not to meditate beforehand how to answer**? What does this tell you about the supernatural power required for sharing the good news of the kingdom of God? Does this mean pastors, Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders, don't need to prepare?
4. In the endtimes, Christians will suffer, be hated, and even put to death. Yet Jesus says not a hair on our heads will perish and that by endurance we will gain our lives. Is this a contradiction? What do you think Jesus means here?
5. The wrath of God against sin and the judgment upon all who reject Jesus' salvation are incredibly sobering thoughts. These are not topics we want to think about and yet why is it important that we always keep them in mind? How can contemplating God's wrath and judgment actually lead us to hope and gratitude?