



## Luke 21:5-38— “Watching for the Son of Man”

### OBSERVE & REFLECT

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

#### READ Luke 21:5-38

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

### INVESTIGATE & APPLY

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

Open: In what situations do you have the hardest time waiting for something?

Jesus' disciples asked him how they would know when the frightening events he was talking about would take place. Jesus will give them signs of a sort, but actually the main thing he wants them to learn is that there will be a period of waiting, when they will have to be patient through dangerous and testing times.

-NT Wright

1. Read Luke 21:5-38. The temple, the most beautiful building imaginable to the Jews, adorned and decorated by the skill and love of hundreds of craftsmen over many decades, and occupying the central place in national life and religion- Jesus said this temple would be torn down. This was unthinkable for devout Jews. What does Jesus say to watch for on a worldwide level (v.8-11)?
2. According to verses 12-19, what will life be like for those who claim to be followers of Christ during the time Jesus is referring to? What promises does Jesus offer to his followers regarding this time of waiting and turmoil?
3. In verses 20-24, what instruction does Jesus give to his followers for when this event occurs? Why does Jesus suggest that they had no duty to stay in Jerusalem, that it was not worth defending?
4. While the destruction of the temple is long past, what do verses 20-33 tell us about living in a world which, like Jerusalem, often refuses Jesus' message?
5. In verses 34-36, how does Jesus say his followers are to live while they wait for the great crisis, the destruction of Jerusalem? How do verses 34-36 speak to us today as followers of Jesus?

### NEXT STEPS

- ☀ How do these verses provide the comfort and encouragement needed in times of suffering and persecution for believers in Jesus time and for us today?
- ☀ Followers of Jesus today are also in a time of waiting. In our day-to-day lives, what can make following Jesus a wearying and difficult path?
- ☀ There are times when our eyes will be shutting with tiredness, spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. The life of faith, at times, is not an exciting battle with adrenaline flowing and banners flying but the steady tread of prayer, hope, Scripture, sacrament and witness, day by day and week by week. What can we, as followers of Christ today, do to help each other live with patience in these times?
- ☀ In prayer, honestly put before Jesus the struggle, weariness or fatigue that you are feeling. Pray for the fruits of the Spirit, particularly patience.

## Luke 21

[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.

[25] “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, [26] people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. [27] And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. [28] Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

[29] And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. [30] As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. [31] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. [32] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. [33] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[34] “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. [35] For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. [36] But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

[37] And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet. [38] And early in the morning all the people came to him in the temple to hear him.