Luke

Chapter 21

Luke 21:1-4 – The Widow's Offering

1 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts
into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow
put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you,"
he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the
others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their
wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to
live on."

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🔍 Key Observations

1. Value Is Measured by Sacrifice, Not Size

- God's economy is different from ours — He measures the heart and the cost, not the dollar amount.
- The widow's two coins outweighed the gold of the rich because they represented her **whole livelihood**.

2. Faith in God's Provision

- Giving "all she had" shows profound faith — she entrusted her future to God rather than holding back for security.
- This aligns with Jesus' earlier teaching in Luke 12:22–34 about seeking God's kingdom and trusting Him to meet our needs.

3. Contrast With the Scribes

- In Luke 20:47, Jesus condemned the scribes for "devouring widows' houses" while making a show of religiosity.
- Here, the one they might exploit becomes **the hero of faith** in God's eyes.

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

5 Some of his disciples were remarking about how the
temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with
gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, 6 "As for what
you see here, the time will come when not one stone
will be left on another; every one of them will be
thrown down." 7 "Teacher," they asked, "when will
these things happen? And what will be the sign that
they are about to take place?"

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

[8] He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For
many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and,
'The time is near.' Do not follow them. [9] When you hear
of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These
things must happen first, but the end will not come
right away." [10] Then he said to them: "Nation will rise
against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. [11] There
will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in
various places, and fearful events and great signs from
heaven.

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

12 “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute
you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put
you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and
governors, and all on account of my name. 13 And so
you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your
mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend
yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that
none of your adversaries will be able to resist or
contradict.

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.

Verse 12: Persecution Before the Other Signs

- “Before all this” means **before the wars, earthquakes, and other upheavals** He just described.
- The persecution will include:
  - **Physical arrest** (“lay their hands on you”)
  - **Religious trials** (“synagogues”)
  - **Civil trials** (“prisons,” “before kings and governors”)
- This prediction is fulfilled in Acts:
  - Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4)
  - Paul before governors Felix and Festus (Acts 24–25)
  - Christians imprisoned for preaching (Acts 5, 16)

13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

Verse 13: Persecution as Opportunity

- Rather than seeing persecution as defeat, Jesus reframes it:

  > *“This will be your opportunity to bear witness.”*

- Trials put disciples **before audiences they would never otherwise reach** — from religious leaders to rulers and entire communities.

14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer,

Verse 14: Don’t Over-Prepare in Fear

- “Settle it in your minds” — make a deliberate decision now.
- They are not to **pre-script** elaborate defenses out of anxiety.
- This is not a call to neglect studying Scripture, but a call to **trust God in the moment** rather than relying on human rhetoric.

15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

Verse 15: Divine Empowerment

- Jesus promises:
  - **A mouth** → the ability to speak clearly and boldly.
  - **Wisdom** → the Spirit-given insight to speak truth in a way that cannot be refuted.
- This also fulfills Jesus' earlier promise in **Luke 12:11–12** — the Holy Spirit will teach them what to say when brought before authorities.

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and
sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of
you to death. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me.
18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 Stand firm,
and you will win life. 20 “When you see Jerusalem being
surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation
is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the
mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in
the country not enter the city.

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all
that has been written. 23 How dreadful it will be in
those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!
There will be great distress in the land and wrath
against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and
will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem
will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of
the Gentiles are fulfilled.

🔑 Key Themes

1. Judgment and Fulfillment

- The destruction of Jerusalem was not an accident — it fulfilled both covenant warnings and messianic prophecy.

2. God's Compassion Amid Judgment

- Jesus grieves for the suffering that judgment will bring, especially for the most vulnerable.

3. A Transitional Period in God's Plan

- "Times of the Gentiles" indicates a shift in focus from Israel to the wider world in God's redemptive mission, though Israel's restoration is still promised in prophecy.

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On
the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at
the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint
from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the
world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that
time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud
with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin
to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because
your redemption is drawing near.”

🔑 Key Themes

1. Cosmic Signs Precede Christ's Return

- These are not hidden events but unmistakable disruptions in creation.

2. Two Responses: Fear or Hope

- The same events that cause the world to faint in fear are the ones that cause believers to lift their heads in expectation.

3. Assurance of Redemption

- "Redemption" here is the full completion of salvation — freedom from sin's presence and the restoration of all creation.

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all
the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for
yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so,
when you see these things happening, you know that
the kingdom of God is near. 32 "Truly I tell you, this
generation will certainly not pass away until all these
things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass
away, but my words will never pass away.

📊 Interpretive Views of Luke 21:32

View	Meaning of "This Generation"	How It Relates to Fulfillment	Strengths	Challenges
Preterist (Past Fulfillment)	Refers to the literal generation alive during Jesus' ministry.	Fulfilled in **A.D. 70** with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.	Fits natural meaning of "generation"; aligns with historical events witnessed within ~40 years.	Difficult to fit cosmic signs (vv. 25–28) entirely into A.D. 70 events.
Futurist (End-Time Fulfillment)	Refers to the generation alive when **end-time signs** begin.	Once the events of vv. 25–28 start, all will occur within one generation.	Keeps cosmic signs and Second Coming literal; allows for dual fulfillment (A.D. 70 & future).	Requires "generation" to mean a future group, not the immediate audience.
Symbolic / Ethnic View	"Generation" means a type of people (e.g., unbelieving humanity, or the Jewish people as a nation).	These people will persist until all is fulfilled — including the Second Coming.	Fits biblical use of "generation" as "kind" or "race" in some passages; explains long delay.	Less natural reading; risks removing time-bound urgency from the text.

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Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with
carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and
that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it
will come on all those who live on the face of the whole
earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may
be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that
you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Luke 21:34 — Watch Yourselves

Main Point: Be spiritually alert so “that day” doesn’t catch you by surprise.

Dangers to Avoid

- **Dissipation** – reckless, wasteful living
- **Drunkenness** – literal or anything that clouds judgment
- **Cares of this life** – worries & distractions that pull you away from God

The Warning

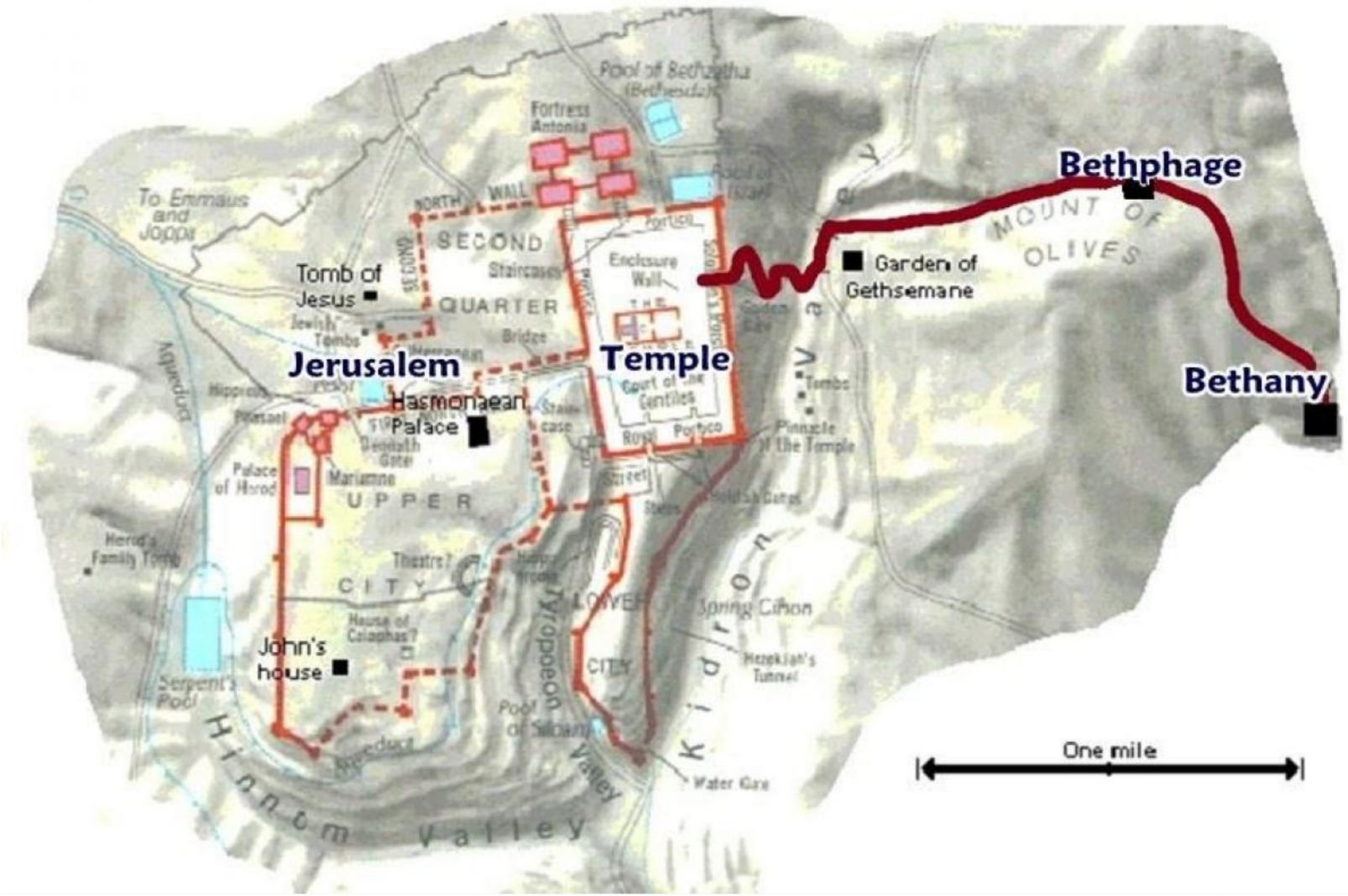
- A weighed-down heart leads to spiritual dullness.
- The Day of the Lord can arrive **suddenly, like a trap**.

The Call

- Guard your heart daily.
- Keep your priorities eternal, not just earthly.

Luke 21:5-37 – The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

[37] Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, [38] and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.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Bethany
Tomb of Jesus
Jerusalem
Temple
Hasmonaean Palace
John's house
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Fortress Antonia
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UPPER CITY
LOWER CITY
MOUNT OF OLIVES
Kidron Valley
Hinnom Valley
Tyropoeon Valley
Aqueduct
Enclosure Wall
Court of the Gentiles
Royal Portico
Pinnacle of the Temple
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Hezekiah's Tunnel
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Herod's Family Tomb
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