



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story of Patience!

Luke 21:5-19

Message #63 of 70 – S853

Sermon given on July 21, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Story of Patience!

Luke 21:5-19

Opening Comments

- 1 • Turn to **Luke 21**
- 2 • We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- We all view the things of life based on our worldview, personal experience, education, upbringing, emotions, desires, etc.
- That is why two people can look at the same thing and come up with diametrically opposed interpretations
- Like abortion – a liberal views it as a women's health issue or a matter of choice – while a conservative views it as the ending of a human life – even murder
- They can't both be right – one of them has to be wrong – is wrong!
- We live in a time and culture that is increasingly describing any resistance to the liberal viewpoint an expression of hate
- And because liberals use words like hate, bigot, sexist, and patriarchy, conservatives cave and keep their views to themselves
- This is not new – it was happening 2,000 years ago and in today's text Jesus warns us that it will continue and will increase as the time of His Second Coming approaches
- But this text is not so much a warning as it is an exhortation
- Our text will end with Jesus telling us to persevere
- One of the threads of the tapestry of the story of your life ought to be patience in the face of trials, tribulations, and persecution
- Let's pray and ask Jesus to teach us how to persevere as we wait for Him
- **Pray**

Teaching

- 3 • **A Story of Patience!**
- Chapter 21 opened with Jesus sitting in the temple area and watching as the rich put their gifts into the treasury
- He is watching but seems to express no real connection to what they are doing

- But then this poor widow comes up and drops in two small insignificant coins and Jesus makes a big deal about it
- A text like that causes me to wish I could see the world as Jesus sees it
- Starting with verse 5 to the end of chapter 21 we have what is called the Olivet Discourse because it took place on the Mount of Olives

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- **Luke 21:5-7**
- Based on the historical descriptions of the temple in Jerusalem it may have been one of the most beautiful buildings in existence at that time
- It was made with the purest white stone overlaid with a large amount of gold and was decorated very ornately
- On one wall was a huge grapevine with a cluster of grapes the size of a man made of precious stones
- The disciples comment to Jesus on this and I can imagine Him glancing at it and shrugging
- Jesus from eternity past has dwelt in the glory of heaven
- It would be hard to be impressed with anything man has built after being in the presence of Almighty God and seeing His glory
- Jesus then begins His most prophetic message
- We get the full picture of this account as we look at Matthew and Mark's accounts also
- Tells His disciples that the temple will be completely demolished
- In chapter 19 Jesus told them that Jerusalem would be destroyed
- Once they get to the Mount of Olives the disciples ask Jesus three basic questions
- When will the temple be destroyed? What sign should we be looking for to tell us it is happening? And in Matthew's gospel: What will be the sign of your Coming to set up the Kingdom?
- Before He answers them, Jesus warns them about something

- **Luke 21:8**

- Jesus is talking to His disciples and warning them about false messiahs coming in His name
- And after Jesus died, raised, and ascended there were many people claiming to be the Messiah – several of these people are mentioned in the NT – Peter talked about this **2 Peter 2:1-3**

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But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even

denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

- History is littered with the carnage of false messiahs
- Marshall Applewhite – Heaven’s Gate - claimed to be the reincarnated Christ and that people were being called to achieve the next level of human evolution by meeting the aliens who were in a spacecraft following the Hale-Bopp comet that was passing by the earth. He deceived/convinced 38 people to commit ritual suicide believing they would be transported up to the alien spacecraft.
- Satan has been deceiving mankind since the Garden of Eden
- Maybe you have heard of the Storm Area 51 thing on Facebook
- I think it started as a joke – as of Friday 1.7 million people have said they are going to forcefully free the aliens that the government is holding prisoner there – how many will Satan deceive into believing it is real – praying the fad passes before the September 20 schedule
- Our only true defense is the Word of God, empowered by the Spirit of God – don’t be deceived

6 • **Luke 21:9**

- Jesus telling them not to freak out when they see all these things happening
- They don’t mean that the end is coming right away
- What ‘end’? The destruction of the temple or the Second Coming? Probably both.

• **Luke 21:10-11**

- These things have been going on since the Fall
- None of them are signs that Jesus is coming back soon
- Something was going to happen that the disciples needed to be ready for

• **Luke 21:12-13**

- After Jesus ascended and sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and empowered them to preach the gospel, they regularly encountered persecution – Acts tells us of several and history is filled with examples

- ‘But’ – God was going to use this persecution to get the message of Jesus to the most important people in the world
- Peter and John, two fishermen from Galilee ended up preaching the gospel to the Sanhedrin
- Paul stood before kings and rulers and might have even preached the gospel to the Roman Emperor
- Throughout history men and women of God have gotten to preach the gospel to kings and rulers through persecution
- What would you say if you were arrested and had to testify before the governor of California?
- Jesus says not to worry about that
- **Luke 21:14-15**
- Mark tells us that it will be the Holy Spirit who will speak through you
- Jesus then warns His disciples that the future will be hard
- **Luke 21:16-17**
- It is very likely that this is referring to the time right before the destruction of the temple and the Second Coming, but we can see the reality of verse 17 right now
- Christians are being depicted as evil, hate-mongers because we say the Bible is true and that it says that some things are wrong!
- 7 • We shouldn’t be surprised by that **John 15:18-19**
If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
- No one wants to be hated – and if we faithfully express the love of Christ to others – most will receive it graciously, but not everyone
- But don’t be afraid of what they might do
- 8 • **Luke 21:18**
- This is pointing to the assurance of our salvation
- If you are one of Christ’s, the worst thing someone can do to you is kill you – But your soul cannot be killed **John 3:14-16**
- 9 **And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

- We are going to close this message looking at Jesus' exhortation to His disciples, and therefore to us

10 • Luke 21:19

- The word patience there has the meaning of steadfast endurance, perseverance, or standing firm
- There are signs of Christ coming back in the not too distant future
- We are not waiting for any particular sign
- We are convinced by Scripture that the next thing we as believers should expect is Jesus coming to get His church – the Rapture
- There will be no warning
- But as we look around the world, we see a lot of the things that Jesus mentions here
- Not only that - we see the culture getting darker and more antagonistic to the Christian faith
- And then add to that the difficult circumstances of our lives – bad relationships, financial problems, health issues,
- And for some they are wrestling with the hurts of the past
- There are times when it is not easy to live in this world
- There are at least three attitudes we can have as we are faced with these hard things of life

11 • **Fearful** – Jesus told the disciples not to be terrified (v9) **2 Timothy 1:7**

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- Fear is never the right attitude

12 • **Apathy** – just don't care or find a way to escape the feelings through self-medicating with drugs and alcohol or some other escape

13 • But what Jesus is telling us here – **Persevere** • Don't be afraid of what is going on and don't try to escape it – face it – stand up to it – watch for Christ's coming and pray and then do whatever God tells you to do

- Listen that doesn't suddenly make the world all better
- We had a water leak under our house
- So far, to fix it they have pulled up the floor in one of the bedrooms, the laundry room and part of the kitchen
- And as of Friday, we had to relocate

- We could freak out – we could be terrified about what they are going to find next – because you know they will find something
- Or we could remember, this isn't our home
- Instead of freaking out – watch and pray
- It doesn't matter what your circumstances are – God has you – watch and pray – persevere
- It doesn't matter what your past has done to you – God can heal it – watch and pray – be patient with the process
- It doesn't matter what the world throws at you – God is sovereign over the entire universe – watch and pray – stand firm
- Whatever darkness might come into the story of your life, God is preparing it to be a vehicle for declaring the light of Jesus Christ
- And He is simply calling you to watch and pray
- It is in those dark times of the soul that Paul's words speak the loudest

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Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- Watch and pray and let the Holy Spirit strengthen you with the power of His might
- Watch and pray – Jesus is coming soon!

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- **Pray!**