

Union United Methodist Church
 Spring FOCUS Bible School, 2025
 FOCUS: Followers of Christ Understanding Scripture
 Study: Gospel of LUKE

Week 10: May 21, 2025

This Week's Study: **Luke 21-22**

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Week 10: Jesus teaches on Jerusalem & His Return; Last Supper; the Greatest...

Below is a table showing which chapters would be covered in each week of this 12-week study, followed by a general outline of the gospel of Luke

Week	From Luke Chapter	To Luke Chapter	Theme
1	1	2	Jesus' Birth and Infancy
2	3	4	John the Baptist; Jesus' Preparation for Ministry; Start of Ministry
3	5	8	Jesus' Galilee Ministry: Nazareth, Chooses Disciples, Sermon on Mount
4	9	10	Commissioning of Disciples, Feeding 5,000, Good Samaritan
5	11	12	Jesus on Prayer; Jonah as a sign; Various warnings (blasphemy, etc.)
6	13	14	Teachings on Kingdom of God; Lament over Jerusalem; Cost of discipleship; Eating with Pharisees
7	15	16	Parables of the Kingdom: lost sheep, lost coin, unjust steward; Rich man & Lazarus
8	17	18	Teachings on Kingdom of God; Healing of 10 lepers; Rich young ruler; Prayer – persistent widow; Parable: pharisee & tax collector
9	19	20	Zaccheus, Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem; Jesus & the Temple; Marriage & Resurrection, ...
10	21	22	Widow's giving; Prediction of Jerusalem destruction; Signs of Jesus' Return; Passover & the Last Supper; Who is the Greatest?
11	22	23	Passion: Garden of Gethsemane, Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, Death & Burial
12	23	24	Resurrection, Appearances, Ascension of Jesus

General Outline of the Gospel of Luke

- The beginning
 - Jesus's Birth, Infancy, and Preparation for Ministry: 1:1-4:12
 - Preface: 1:1-4
 - Jesus' Infancy: 1:5-2:52
 - Preparation for Ministry: 2:53-4:13
- Jesus' Ministry in Galilee: 4:14-9:50
 - Nazareth - Manifesto proclamation & Resistance: 4:16-30
 - Choosing of Disciples
 - The sermon on the mount: 5:17-6:49
- Jesus' Travelling Ministry: 9:51-19:27
- The Passion - Suffering & Death of Jesus: 19:28-23:56
- Resurrection of Jesus, Appearances, Ascension: Luke 24

1. Luke 21 & 22 Overview

In these chapters we see Jesus show the urgency of mission that preceded his death and resurrection. We are called to have the same urgency in our lives and ministry to the world as we await Jesus' return.

Themes in these chapters include:

- Luke 21:1-4 - Jesus on Giving: the Widow's Example
- Luke 21: Understanding the Times & Living Accordingly:
 - Luke 19:41-48 - Jesus wept over Jerusalem - the people did not recognize their time of visitation from the Lord
 - Luke 21:5-6 - Complacency about Temple's Beauty
 - Luke 21:7-19 - Signs & Persecution
 - Luke 21:20-24 - Jesus prophesied destruction of Jerusalem
 - Luke 21:25-28 - Jesus' Second Coming
 - Luke 21:29-33 - Recognizing the times: Learn from Fig & other trees
 - Luke 21:37-38 - Jesus Sets Example in this too.
- Luke 22 Culmination of Jesus's in-Person Ministry Starts
 - Luke 22:1-6 - The Plot Thickens - note Satan's role!
 - Luke 22:7-13 Preparation - Passover Meal (Last Supper with Disciples)
 - Luke 22:14-23 The Last Supper and the Institution of Holy Communion
 - Luke 22:24-29 Argument About Who Is the Greatest

2. Luke 21:1-4 - Jesus teaches on Giving: The Widow's Example

Please note how Jesus thought about and spoke about offerings:

1He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; 2he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; 4for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:1-4 NRSV

- **He looked at what people were giving. The Lord is interested in our gifts and offerings!**
- **How much you give matters as much as the heart with which you give.**
The widow gave 100% ...

"all of them have contributed out of their abundance,
but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

More than our material offerings, the Lord is interesting in the offering of our hearts and whole life to God.

Another great example is King David in 2 Samuel 24.

Through his own mistakes judgement came on Israel, and there was a plague, and people were dying. David repented and humbled himself and

18On that day Gad went to David and said to him, **"Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."**

19So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. 20When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

21Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?"
"To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped."

22Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are

threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. 23Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you."

24But the king replied to Araunah, **"No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."** 2 Samuel 24:18-24 NIV

Jesus set the example. He offered his whole being on the altar of the cross for our salvation. It cost him everything!

3. Luke 21: Understanding the Times & Living Accordingly

Virtually all of Luke 21 is focused on understanding the times and applying ourselves to what God requires of us.

1) Luke 19:41-48 - Jesus wept over Jerusalem - the people did not recognize their time of visitation from the Lord

As we saw last week, Jesus was in agony over Jerusalem, knowing what was about to befall the city. It was a case of missed opportunity. The Kingdom of God had come near and they missed it.

"As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. 44They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; **because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."** Luke 19:41-44 NRSV

This is a warning for us too!

There is an urgency about the Kingdom that we must be careful not to miss.

Today we look at more teaching of Jesus on this urgency we are to have as our disposition.

2) Luke 21:5-6 - Warning: Complacency about Temple's Beauty

Here is an interesting story:

5When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6"**As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.**" Luke 21:5-6 NRSV

While there is nothing wrong with having a beautiful temple or church, we must be careful to remember what matters most to the Lord. For instance, the Church is the universal (catholic) body of believers in Christ worldwide. Our church is not the whole church.

Also what matters most is the body of believers. The people are the Church not the beautiful buildings we put up and decorate and watch over so jealously. A human soul is eternal - compared to that every material things is temporary.

3) Luke 21:7-19 - Signs & Persecution

7They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Jesus gave three responses to this question:

- *Be Careful Who Follow! Beware of False Messiahs.*
8And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.
- *What Is Happening in the World*
9"**When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.**" 10Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven

- *Increased Persecution of Christ's Disciples*

12"**But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you;** they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

Instead of fear, see opportunity! Be a witness for Christ!!

13This will give you an opportunity to testify.

14So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance;

15for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be protected, but you must endure

17 You will be hated by all because of my name.

18But not a hair of your head will perish.

19By your endurance you will gain your souls. '

4) Luke 21:20-24 - Jesus prophesied destruction of Jerusalem

At this time Jesus gave a prophesy about Jerusalem that came to pass in AD70 when the Romans destroyed the temple. What remains of that beautiful temple is the Wailing Wall we see on the Temple Mount in Israel today. On the temple mount sits a mosque.

20"When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; 22for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfillment of all that is written. 23Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people;

Prediction of Israel's scattering in AD70

24they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations;

This prophesy also foretold when Israel would come back together as a nation.

24they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Some would argue that this prophesy applies to the yet unfulfilled future.

5) Luke 21:25-28 - Jesus' Second Coming

In these verses we read about what Jesus predicted would be signs of his second coming.

- *Again, the clues are in what we witness in the world and the universe.*
25"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- *What Our Attitude Should Be*
28Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
- *How Jesus will come again*
27Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

Luke also writes in Acts 1 about what happened when Jesus went to heaven after his resurrection, and then tells us again how Jesus will return:

9After he said this, **he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

10They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when **suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."**

6) Luke 21:29-33 - Recognizing the times: Learn from Fig & other trees

How did Jesus teach us to learn to recognize the sign of the times?

29Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

This calls for being knowledgeable of His word, watching out for their fulfilment, and being alert to react in the way He has taught us to.

We must value and hold on to his eternal words!

33Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Luke 21:33

In the Old Testament we are given a great example of this disposition in the children of Issachar: When it came time for the people of Israel to make David King as God willed, we see that:

32Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, two hundred chiefs, and all their kindred under their command.

32From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. **All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take."** 1 Chronicles 12:32 NLT

7) Luke 21:37-38 - Jesus Sets Example in this too.

Jesus walked the talk!

37Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. 38And **all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.**

4. Luke 22 Culmination of Jesus's in-Person Ministry Starts

Everything in Luke 22 is not covered in these notes. Most of the narrative is familiar but worthy of close self-study. Stories such as Jesus prediction that Peter would deny him, Jesus' prayer on the mount of Olives before he is arrested, etc. are not covered, but please make the time and effort to study them on your own. You'll be richly blessed.

1) Luke 22:1-6 - The Plot Thickens - note Satan's role!

This is the familiar story of how Judas agreed to betray Jesus for money.

- Jesus had such a great ministry and was blessing so many that it took an evil plot to get him arrested.

1Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. 2The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

- Note the role of Satan in the whole thing.

3Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; 4he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them.

5They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. 6So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

- Judas yielded to Satan
- Judas' act was voluntary – he wasn't forced to.

2) Luke 22:7-13 Preparation - Passover Meal (Last Supper with Disciples)

This portion is left for self-study and discussion.

3) Luke 22:14-23 The Last Supper and the Institution of Holy Communion

This portion is left for self-study and discussion.

4) Luke 22:24-29 Argument About Who Is the Greatest

24A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

Jesus taught some important lessons here:

- *The way of Christ is different from the way of the world*
25But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. 26But not so with you;
- *The greatest in God's Kingdom is the servant*
26But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves.
- *Jesus' example is the ultimate for how to be elevated as a Disciple*
27For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.
- *We have privileges and blessings when we stand with Christ in his sufferings!*
28"**You are those who have stood by me in my trials;**
29**and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, 30so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

5. Daily Study Schedule & Questions

This week, please study chapters 21 and 22 with the help of the above notes.

In addition to the questions raised in the notes above, here are some additional suggested reflection themes:

1. Do you understand the signs of the times we live in?
What are they?

What do you learn from what Jesus teaches on Jerusalem and the eventual destruction that makes you pause for thought?

In what ways are you living expectant of the second coming of Christ?

2. Study rest of Luke 22 and share what you learn with your group next week.