

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Pastor Jake Magee

The Journey | Don't Be Quiet | Luke 21:12-19

*“<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> This will be your opportunity to bear witness. <sup>14</sup> Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your lives.” – Luke 21:12-19*

### 1. Don't Wait Until Your Culture Likes You, to Say Something (12).

*“<sup>17</sup> Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” – Revelation 12:17*

### 2. Don't Wait Until You Have All the Answers to Say Something (13-15).

*“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” – Revelation 12:11*

### 3. Don't Let Your Closest Relationships Stop You from Saying Something (16-19).

*“<sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account...<sup>16</sup> let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” – Matthew 5:11-16*

## Small Group Questions



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#### The Big Idea

For the month of October, we're looking at a sermon Jesus gives about the end of the world. He uses the destruction of Jerusalem (which happens in the 1<sup>st</sup> century) to talk about the end of the world. It's a dress rehearsal for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Jesus tells us to prepare for his coming in five distinct ways: *don't be distracted* (vss.5-7); *don't be deceived* (vs.8); *don't be afraid* (vss.9-11); *don't be quiet* (vss.12-19); and *don't give up* (vss.20-33).

#### Getting Started

1) If you knew in 2019 what you now know about 2020-2021, what would you have done to prepare for these difficult years? What are some 'opportunities' you could have seized?

#### Digging Deeper

2) When someone says, "I have an opportunity for you," this almost always suggest something positive. Give some examples.

3) Read verse 13 and then go back and read verses 12-19.

a) This wasn't what Jesus' disciples were hoping they would experience. What were likely some positive opportunities they were expecting instead?

b) What are some other passages that describe persecution in a positive way?

4) The opportunity is to "bear witness." With this word Jesus wants us to think of a courtroom (vs.12). Discuss these questions in light of the courtroom image:

- Who is on trial?
- Who's the prosecutor and what's the case being made?
- Who's the defense attorney and what's the case being made (cf. John 16:7-11)?
- Who's the witness, and how is the defense attorney using the witness?

5) What makes a good witness in a trial? How are these traits like or unlike good witnesses for Jesus?

6) Jesus describes “witness-intimidation/harassment” in several ways.

a) Go through the text and identify the different ways Jesus’ witnesses are harassed.

b) Share a story of a Christian who has suffered persecution.

c) There are subtle ways Jesus’ witnesses can be harassed today. Work through the following list and discuss how this can and does happen: *Social discrimination, institutional discrimination, employment discrimination, legal discrimination*. What would you add?

7) There are several things that hold us back from being good witnesses for Jesus. Jesus encourages us to face them. Discuss the three challenges listed below:

- Don’t wait until your culture likes you before you say something. (vs.12)
- Don’t wait until you have all the answers to say something. (vss.14-15)
- Don’t let your closest relationships stop you from saying something. (vss.16-17)

### **Making It Real**

8) Share the name of a person you want to be a witness to for Jesus.