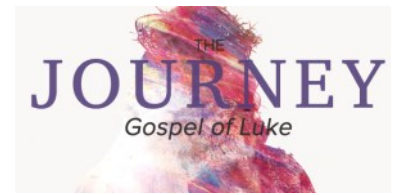


Sunday, October 03, 2021

Pastor Jake Magee

The Journey | Don't Be Distracted | Luke 21:1-7



⁵And 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.” ⁷And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” - Luke 21:5-7

The Setting

➤ Putting on Your _____

➤ Distracted by the _____

➤ Distracted by the _____

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. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But 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.” – Luke 21:34-36

The Big Idea

For the next five weeks we're looking at a sermon Jesus gives about the end of the world. He 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

Name some apocalyptic/post-apocalyptic books and films that are popular.

People have a lot of fear about the end of the world. For you, what's something in your immediate future you're afraid of?

Digging Deeper

1. Preachers often give life application at the end of their messages. Jesus does too. We'll keep reminding you of Jesus' closing application as we study Luke 21 for the next few weeks. Let's start with it today. READ verses 34-36. What does Jesus tell us *to do* and *not do* to prepare for his coming? Explain what you think these things mean?

2. Jesus predicts both the destruction of the temple/city (about 40 years later) *and* the end of the world some time long after that.
 - a) Where do you see those two different events distinguished in Luke 21?
 - b) On Sunday Pastor Jake said we need to wear "bifocals" in studying some Biblical prophecy. What did he mean? Can you think of other examples in Scripture?

3. READ verses 5-7 and compare with Matthew 24:1-3.
 - a) What's different about these accounts?
 - b) Google "*how great was Herod's temple*" and discuss your findings.

4. Jesus shocks his disciples when he says the temple would soon pass away, shattering illusion that it was indestructible. Because of this new understanding about its imminent destruction, the disciples now want to understand and prepare for the end of the world (Matthew 24:3).
 - a) Sometimes we act as if our lives will go on forever and nothing will ever change for the worse. How so?
 - b) How does this make us unprepared for Jesus' coming?
 - c) Look at Moses' prayer in Psalm 90:12&13 and discuss ways to do what he is praying for.

5. Not only can the beauty and seeming permanence of the world make us ill-prepared for Jesus' coming, so can the pain and brutality of the world. Suffering and injustice can feel like a building that will never be torn down!

a) Look at verses 1-7. What painful reality do you see that seems will never change for some people?

b) A part of the struggle for those who suffer is seeing it (and all of its setbacks) as temporary. Can you share a personal example?

c) Whereas our suffering can make us look past the promise of Jesus' coming, it is also true that the promise of his coming helps us look past our suffering. Share a personal example.

Making It Real

6. Either the *beauty* or *brutality* of life can make us unprepared for Jesus' coming. Which one do you think is most relevant to you? Take some time to pray to be prepared.