**Luke 21:**

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| **Summary of the Gospel book of John / The Gospels that we are reading:**  “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name**.” |

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| **Pastor Mike teaching First John. 1 John‬**  **“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life**. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” |

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| **PRAY Luke‬**  “For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 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**.”” |

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| **Luke 21:**  Luke 21 is a chapter in the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament of the Bible. It contains teachings of Jesus Christ about generosity, the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, signs of the end times, the coming persecution of His followers, and His eventual return.  ### 1. \*\*The Widow’s Offering (Luke 21:1-4)\*\* Jesus observes people giving offerings at the temple treasury. While the wealthy contribute large sums, a poor widow gives two small copper coins (often called "mites"). Jesus praises her, saying she gave more than the others because she gave all she had to live on, demonstrating sacrificial generosity and faith. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: God values the heart and intent behind giving, not the amount. True generosity is measured by sacrifice and trust in God. ---  ### 2. \*\*The Destruction of the Temple Foretold (Luke 21:5-6)\*\* Some disciples admire the beauty of the temple in Jerusalem, adorned with fine stones and gifts. Jesus prophesies that the temple will be completely destroyed, with "not one stone left upon another." This prediction was fulfilled in 70 AD when the Romans demolished the temple. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: Earthly structures, even those dedicated to God, are temporary. Jesus shifts focus to spiritual priorities. ---  ### 3. \*\*Signs of the End Times and Persecution (Luke 21:7-19)\*\* The disciples ask Jesus when the temple’s destruction will happen and what signs will precede it. Jesus responds with a discourse about the future, warning them not to be deceived by false messiahs or alarmed by immediate events. He describes: - \*\*Deceptions\*\*: False teachers claiming to be the Messiah. - \*\*Wars and Disasters\*\*: Nation rising against nation, earthquakes, famines, and pestilences. - \*\*Persecution\*\*: Believers will face arrest, trials, and betrayal, even by family, for their faith. Jesus promises they will be given wisdom to testify and that endurance will lead to salvation. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: Despite chaos and suffering, God remains in control. Believers are called to persevere, trust in God’s guidance, and remain faithful. ---  ### 4. \*\*The Destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-24)\*\* Jesus specifically describes the coming siege of Jerusalem, warning that when armies surround the city, its destruction is near. He advises people to flee to the mountains and predicts great distress, with many falling by the sword or being taken captive. Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the "times of the Gentiles" are fulfilled. - This prophecy aligns with the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. The phrase "times of the Gentiles" suggests a period when non-Jewish powers dominate until God’s plan is complete. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: God’s judgment is certain, but He provides warnings and opportunities for escape. Obedience to Jesus’ words brings safety. ---  ### 5. \*\*The Coming of the Son of Man (Luke 21:25-28)\*\* Jesus shifts to cosmic signs signaling His second coming: distress among nations, roaring seas, and heavenly disturbances (sun, moon, and stars). People will faint from fear, but believers should "look up" because their redemption is near when the Son of Man (Jesus) returns in power and glory. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: The return of Christ will be a terrifying event for the unprepared but a source of hope and deliverance for His followers. ---  ### 6. \*\*The Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 21:29-33)\*\* Jesus uses the fig tree as an illustration: just as budding leaves signal summer is near, the signs He described (wars, disasters, persecution, etc.) indicate the kingdom of God is approaching. He emphasizes that "this generation" will not pass away until these things begin, likely referring to the temple’s destruction within the lifetime of His hearers. His words are eternal and trustworthy. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: God’s promises are reliable. Believers should recognize the signs and trust in the certainty of His plan. ---  ### 7. \*\*Exhortation to Watch and Pray (Luke 21:34-36)\*\* Jesus warns His followers not to be weighed down by carousing, drunkenness, or the cares of life, lest the day of His return catch them unprepared. He urges them to stay vigilant, pray for strength to escape the coming trials, and be ready to stand before the Son of Man. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: Spiritual readiness and prayer are essential to remain faithful in a distracting and challenging world. ---  ### 8. \*\*Jesus’ Ministry Continues (Luke 21:37-38)\*\* The chapter closes with a brief note about Jesus’ routine during this time: He teaches daily in the temple, while crowds gather early to hear Him, and He spends nights on the Mount of Olives. - \*\*Key Theme\*\*: Jesus remains committed to teaching and preparing people for God’s kingdom, even as His crucifixion approaches. ---  ### \*\*Overall Message and Themes of Luke 21\*\* Luke 21 blends near-term prophecies (the fall of Jerusalem) with long-term eschatological events (Christ’s return). It emphasizes: 1. \*\*Faithful Generosity\*\*: Giving with a sincere heart, as seen in the widow’s offering. 2. \*\*Discernment\*\*: Avoiding deception by false messiahs and recognizing true signs of God’s work. 3. \*\*Perseverance\*\*: Enduring persecution and trials with trust in God’s provision. 4. \*\*Hope\*\*: Looking forward to Christ’s return as the ultimate redemption. 5. \*\*Vigilance\*\*: Living intentionally, staying spiritually awake, and praying for strength. The chapter challenges believers to trust God’s sovereignty, remain steadfast in faith, and prioritize eternal values over temporary things like wealth or earthly institutions. --- ### \*\*Additional Notes\*\* - \*\*Historical Context\*\*: Written around 60-80 AD, Luke’s Gospel targets a Gentile audience, emphasizing Jesus as the Savior for all people. Luke 21 reflects the tensions of early Christians facing persecution and the Jewish-Roman conflicts leading to Jerusalem’s fall. - \*\*Theological Context\*\*: The chapter aligns with other eschatological teachings in Matthew 24 and Mark 13 (the "Olivet Discourse"). Luke’s version emphasizes practical instructions for endurance and hope. - \*\*Application\*\*: For modern readers, Luke 21 encourages trusting God amid global unrest, staying faithful in adversity, and living with an eternal perspective. |