

Signs of the Times – Part 2

Luke 21:5-38; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-23-2020

The Risk in Life

Do you ever think about how risky life is? The reality is that this passage highlights the risk, as well as the opportunity, involved in the Christian life.

□ *The Future (10-11)*

What does the Lord Jesus say the disciples should expect in the future?

Luke 21:9-11; see also Mark 13:8; Matthew 24:7-8; Luke 21:25-28; Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27

- ‘It is true that during the period AD 60-80 famine, pestilence, fire, hurricane and earthquake ravaged the empire’ (Hendriksen)
- ‘These disturbances in the physical realm are indeed foreshadowings and portrayals of that which, on a much more extensive and intensive scale, will take place in the realm of nature at the end of the age’ (Hendriksen)

□ *Persecution (12-19)*

What else does the Lord Jesus say the disciples should expect?

Luke 21:12-19; see also Mark 13:9-13; Matthew 24:9-14

- ‘prepare beforehand’ = meditate beforehand, a technical term for preparing an address (Morris)
- ‘not a hair of your head will perish’ =
 - Without the providence of God
 - Without its reward
 - Before its time
 - You will be saved spiritually
 - The church as a whole will survive
 - God’s sovereignty will determine the outcome
 - Some believers will die in persecution, but no believer will perish (John 3:16); Not even a hair perishing points to the resurrection of the body

□ *Destruction of Jerusalem (20-24)*

Luke 21:20-24; see also Mark 13:14-23; Matthew 24:15-28

- ‘Jerusalem surrounded by armies’ – obviously about the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
- ‘The local Christians mostly fled to Pella, one of the cities of the Decapolis and situated in the trans-Jordan, south of the sea of Galilee’ (Morris)
- ‘Josephus tells us that 97,000 were taken prisoner throughout the war and 1,100,000 were killed in the siege’ (Morris)

Life Application

What should we do in light of this passage?

- Think** Biblically (5-9)
- Depend** on God (10-24)
- Look** for Signs (25-33)
- Pursue** Christ (34-38)

Depend on God

Depend on God for Words of Testimony

So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; (14)

Depend on God for Rescue from Wrath

Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; (21)

Depend on God for the Risk Involved: Walking by Faith

¹⁶ But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put *some* of you to death, ¹⁷ and you will be hated by all because of My name. (16-17)

Ditch #1: *Foolishness*: “Doing whatever we want to do regardless of the risk involved.”

Ditch #2: *Faithlessness*: “Not doing anything until there seems to be no real risk involved.”

The Road: *Faith*: “Doing what is right (according to Scripture) and what seems wise (all things considered), trusting God and His promises in the face of the unknown, even when there is real risk involved.”