HOMEWORK: Read Luke chapters 21 & 22

**Main Point**

Jesus gave Himself fully to the will of God in order to save sinners who could not save themselves.

Read Luke 21:1-19.

* **Do you think we see or experience any “signs of the times” today? If so, which ones?**
* **How do you answer someone who asks, “When will these things happen?”**

As believers today, we need to understand the necessity of separating false announcements and signs about Jesus’ return from true prophetic pronouncements. Christians cannot look forward to the second coming with confidence unless they ignore false announcements and false signs about Jesus’ return.

Before international warfare and natural chaos come, the church will face persecution. Belief in Christ and His name will be cause enough for you to be put in jail and punished by the government. The gospel as been paved with the blood of martyrs. As Jesus’ return draws near, persecution will come our way. So, how will we respond when it does? We can use it as an opportunity to talk about Jesus.

Read Luke 21:20-38.

* **What reason do we have as Christians for anticipating Jesus’ return (vv. 27-28)? Why is the gospel not complete without Jesus’ second coming?**
* **How would the promises of verses 32-33 have been comforting to the disciples? Discomforting? What impact do they have on you today?**

Jesus’ second coming is key to the gospel, because He has promised to return and that is our great hope. At the time of His return, He will be recognized for who He is—King of the kingdom and Lord of all—and will bring to ultimate completion the redemption of all believers.

After giving the parable of the fig tree, Jesus turned His attention to a practical appeal consisting of two warnings. The first warning called the disciples to beware of being overcome with drunken revelry or worldly concerns for this life. Jesus’ followers must keep a constant check on their attitudes and conduct. Jesus’ second warning is positive. Be always alert, always ready, always living your life with a sense of urgency and anticipation of Christ’s return. Such alertness is not done in a sense of dread, fearing we might miss His return. Instead, our alertness demonstrates love for Him. We want to be with Christ, our trust is in Him, and we are ever ready to meet Him.

Read Luke 22:1-38.

* **Why is the Lord’s Supper an essential part of Christian practice today? What does sharing in the Lord’s Supper mean to you?**
* **As believers, why is the Lord’s Supper a tradition not only to be revered, but also celebrated? How are we able to approach the Lord’s table with joy?**

Jesus’ ministry to bring outsiders in, as we’ve seen throughout the Book of Luke, is highlighted once again at the Passover meal. The people of Israel were given a pattern of God’s blessing that went like this: If you obeyed God’s law you would receive a blessing, and if you didn’t you would receive a curse (cf. Deut. 11:26-28). But now, Jesus shockingly put a twist to this way of blessing. His life demonstrated that He alone was deserving of God’s blessings, yet, by His own will, He would instead receive the curse that all sinners—past, present, and future—deserved. Furthermore, He would absorb their judgment upon Himself on the cross. Likewise, the blessing of His perfect life could be enjoyed by anyone through faith in Him.

Read Luke 22:39-71.

* **How did Jesus prove Himself to be faithful even in His darkest hour (vv. 39-53)?**
* **Why would the guards treat Jesus as they did? What physical and emotional shape do you think Jesus was in by daybreak (v. 66)?**

After supper, Jesus departed to go pray, and in a moment alone He saw the cup of wrath that He would soon drink. Imagine the anguish of God’s Son, knowing He was about to drink from the cup of wrath that was meant for the world. Jesus was about to experience sin and death in its fullest. Yet in His most agonizing hour, Jesus remained faithful: Jesus prayed that He would do His Father’s will, no matter the cost. Soon afterward, Judas (one of Jesus’ own) and a gang of officials approached to arrest Jesus. The moment had come and as Jesus noted, “This is the hour of darkness” (v. 53). From there, Jesus was passed from court to court, and in contrast to Peter who could not stand up to his accusers (vv. 54-62), Jesus boldly faced His opponents.

* **Luke pointed out that along with the chief priests and the elders, a group of Roman officers accompanied Judas. This meant that both Jews and Gentiles played a part in Jesus’ arrest. Why do you think Luke pointed this out? What does this detail tell us about Jesus’ affect on people? About human nature?**

Judas’s group included a detachment of Roman soldiers stationed in Jerusalem and some temple officials or temple guards from the Sanhedrin. Judas, the Roman soldiers, and the temple police must have appeared to be a formidable force, whatever their total number. This group was prepared for trouble and equipped to meet it. These verses illustrate the universal rejection of Jesus on the part of humanity. Historically, Jews have been labeled as Jesus’ murderers. In this text we see that it was Jews and Gentiles that came to arrest Jesus, an illustration of hatred and enmity toward God on the part of the human race that’s spoken of quite often in Scripture.