

Luke

Final Events

Luke 19:45-48

May 09, 2020

Today

As Jesus was ascending to Jerusalem, he came to the Mount of Olives. He sent 2 disciples into the village to find and bring to him a certain young donkey. After they returned with the colt, Jesus got on him **{even though he had never been ridden}** and began to make his way up the Mount. As he went along, people spread their coats on the ground in front of him, praising God because of all the miracles they had seen. The Pharisees **{who were always following him}** told Jesus to rebuke the disciples, but instead, he said, **"I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."** {Luke 19:40}

When Jesus got to the top of the Mount and saw Jerusalem spread out before him and he wept, **"If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace -- but now it is hidden from your eyes. The day is coming when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you on every side. They will dash you to the ground and will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."** {Luke 19:42-44}

Jesus went to the Temple and cast out all those who were selling {Luke 19:46 see Is 56:7}. Every day he taught in the Temple while the religious leaders tried to destroy him. The people hindered their efforts, so, instead, they came to Jesus and confronted him, **"Who gave you the authority to do what you do?"** --- **"Let me ask you a question first."**, Jesus responded. **"John's baptism-- was it from heaven, or from men?"** They discussed it among themselves and said, **"If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us..."** So, they answered, **"We don't know"** Jesus said, **"Then I am not going to tell you by what authority I am doing these things."**

Jesus turned to the crowd and told them a story of the wicked vine growers who killed the owner's son in order to keep his inheritance. The people listening, responded, **"May that never happen!"** Jesus looked directly at them and asked, **"Then what is the meaning of the scripture 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone'? {Psalm 118:22} Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken. But the one the stone falls on will be crushed."** The religious leaders knew Jesus was talking about them and they were desperate for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the people, so instead, they sent spies, who pretended to be righteous, hoping to find an excuse to take Jesus to the authorities.

"Teacher", they said. **"We know you speak truth and do not show partiality. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar?"** Jesus knew what they were trying to do, so he got out a coin {denarius} and asked, **"Whose likeness and inscription is on this coin?"** **"Caesar"**, they responded. **"Give to Caesar what belongs to him and give to God what belongs to Him."** --- they were unable to trip Jesus up and marveled at his answer. {Luke 20:1-26}

While the people listened, Jesus said to his disciples, **"Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and given the most important seats in the synagogues and at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will receive a greater punished."** {Luke 20:46-47}

As he was speaking, Jesus looked up and saw all the rich people putting their tithe into the treasury, but what caught his attention was a poor widow who dropped in just 2 tiny copper coins. Turning again to the disciples, Jesus said, **"I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All the others gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she gave everything she had to live on."** {Luke 21:3-4}

The disciples were commenting on the beauty of the Temple, but Jesus said, **"The time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."** --- **"When is all this going to happen and what signs should we look for?"** they asked.

Jesus replied:

- Don't be deceived. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.
- You will hear of wars and revolutions. Nations and kingdoms will rise against each other, but don't be frightened. These things must happen --- the end is not yet.
- There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.
- They will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and governors because of me - you will witness to them. Don't worry about your defense. I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.
- You will be betrayed --- even by your closest relatives and friends. Some of you will be put to death. All men will hate you because of me. Stand firm and you will gain eternal life.

- When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know its destruction is near - that's the time to flee Judea and head for the mountains. It is in these days that the punishment written about will be fulfilled. There will be great distress and the people will fall by the sword or be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
- There will be signs in the heavens **{the heavenly bodies will be shaken}**.
- Nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror because of what is coming on the earth. At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, lift up your heads, because your redemption is near...
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Be careful that your hearts are not weighed down with drunkenness and the anxieties of life because that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. Be watchful and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you will stand before the Son of Man. **{Luke 21:5-36}**

It was time for the Passover **{the religious leaders were still looking for a to put Jesus to death, but they were afraid of the people}**. Satan entered into Judas Iscariot and he went to discuss with the religious leaders how he might betray Jesus. They were thrilled, of course, and agreed to pay him. From that moment Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Ch. 22 – On the day the Passover Lamb is sacrificed **{Feast of Unleavened Bread}**, Jesus sent Peter and John to make preparations. It was at that time Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and told the disciples that one of them would betray him.

The disciples discussed among themselves which of them was going to betray Jesus and this led to an argument about who was going to be the greatest in his kingdom --- Jesus had to remind them of what greatness looks like in the kingdom of God. Then he turned and looked straight at Peter, *"Simon, Satan has asked for permission to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed that your faith will not fail, and that when you come back, you will strengthen your brothers."* Peter was astonished, *"I am ready to go to prison or even die for you!"* Jesus answered, *"I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny 3 times that you know me."* Turning back to the disciples, Jesus said, *"Listen to me, it is written: 'He was numbered with the transgressors' {Is. 53:12} I tell you that this must be fulfilled."*

And with that, Jesus and the disciples made their way to the Mount of Olives. When they arrived, Jesus continued further into the garden alone. He knelt down and prayed, *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me. Yet, not my will, but your will be done."* An angel was sent from God to strengthen Jesus because he was in such agony that he was actually sweating drops of blood. When Jesus finally went back to the disciples, they were sleeping.

About this time, a crowd, led by Judas, arrived. Judas gave Jesus a kiss. *"You're going to betray me with a kiss?"* Jesus asked. Seeing what was about to happen the disciples came to Jesus' defense. One of the 11 took out his sword and struck the ear of the high priest's slave, cutting it off. *"Stop!"* Jesus said. He took a moment to heal the slave, then he turned to the religious leaders in the crowd, *"Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour -- when darkness reigns."* **{52-53}** They seized Jesus and took him to the home of the High Priest - Peter followed....

Peter sat down with the crowd next to the fire. A servant girl recognized him as a member of Jesus' group – he denied it. A little later, someone else accused Peter of being a follower of Jesus – he denied it. About an hour later, yet another person asserted that Peter was a follower of Jesus – for the 3rd time he denied it! He had barely finished speaking when he heard the rooster crow. In that moment Jesus turned and looked straight at Peter and he remembered Jesus' words... Peter went outside and wept bitterly. **{54-62}**

The men holding Jesus began to mock and beat him. They blindfolded him, demanding he tell them who had hit him. When daylight came the crowd took Jesus to the council chambers and began to ask him questions, *"If you're Christ tell us." ... "If I tell you the truth you won't believe me and if I ask you a question you will not answer, but from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of God in power."* He responded. They asked again, *"Are you saying you're the Son of God?" ... "Yes",* he said. **{63-71}**

Ch. 23 – That's all the evidence the religious leaders needed - they took Jesus to Pilate and accused him, *"This man is misleading our nation and opposes the paying of taxes to Caesar and he claims to be Christ, a King."*

- **Pilate:** *Are you the king of the Jews?*
- **Jesus:** Yes
- **Pilate to the crowd:** *I find no evidence for the charges against this man.*
- **The crowd:** *He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.*

When Pilate learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who happened to be in Jerusalem. **{1-5}**

When Herod saw Jesus, he was thrilled, because he had been wanting to see him **{He was hoping Jesus would perform a miracle}**. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus remained silent. Meanwhile, the religious leaders, who were standing nearby, vehemently accused Jesus. Herod and his soldiers joined in, ridiculing and mocking Jesus. They put a gorgeous robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. **{6-12 – That day Herod and Pilate became friends.}**

- **Pilate called the crowd together:** *You claim this man incites the people to rebellion. I have examined him and find no evidence to support these charges and neither has Herod because he sent him back to me. This man has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and release him.*
- **The crowd cried out:** *Away with him! Release Barabbas to us!* {Bar-abbas had been thrown into prison for rebellion and murder.}

Pilate appealed to them again, but the crowd kept shouting, "**Crucify him! Crucify him!**" Pilate caved. He released Bar-abbas and Jesus was led away to be crucified. A man from Cyrene – Simon by name – was seized and forced to carry Jesus' cross. {13-26}

The women in the crowd wept as they followed Jesus. He turned and looked at them, "**Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children**" {28-31}

When they came to the place called "The Skull", Jesus, along with 2 criminals were crucified – Jesus in the middle and the criminals on either side.

- Jesus asked his father to forgive the crowd because they didn't know what they were doing.
- They cast lots for his clothes.
- The people and religious leaders taunted Jesus, "**He saved others, let him save himself IF he is the Christ, chosen of God**"
- The Roman soldiers offered him sour wine and mocked him, "**If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!**"
- There was an inscription above his head that read – **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

One of the criminals joined the crowd in mocking Jesus, but the other rebuked him, "**Don't you fear God since you are under the same sentence? Our punishment is just and we are getting what we deserve, but this man has done nothing wrong.**" Turning to Jesus he said, "**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**" Jesus answered him, "**I tell you the truth today --- you will be with me in paradise.**" {40-43}

- From the 6th to the 9th hour darkness fell over land – {noon-3pm}.
- The veil in the Temple was torn in 2.
- Jesus shouted, "**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!**" --- and died.
- A Centurion, who had witnessed these events, began to praise God and said, "**Surely this man was innocent!**"

After Jesus died, a man named Joseph {**a member of the council – a good and righteous man**} asked for his body. Joseph took Jesus off the cross and wrapped his body in linen. Joseph's tomb was nearby, so he took Jesus there and buried him --- it was Friday evening and Sabbath was about to begin. The women prepared spices and perfume and then rested on the Sabbath.

At dawn on Sunday, a group of women went to the grave and were startled to discover that the stone had already been moved. When they entered the tomb, they discovered it was empty – they were confused. Suddenly, 2 young men in dazzling clothing stood before them. The women were terrified and bowed to the ground. "**Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Don't you remember the words he spoke to you?**" {Luke 24:5-6} The women --- including Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James --- ran and reported everything to the 11 and the rest of the group, but they didn't believe the women because it seemed they were speaking nonsense.... Peter went to have a look for himself. Meanwhile.....

2 believers were on their way to the village of Emmaus {**about 7 miles from Jerusalem**}. As they walked, they talked about everything that had happened --- Jesus came up and walked with them {**they were kept from recognizing him**}. He asked what they were talking about since they looked so sad:

- **Cleopas:** *Have you just come to Jerusalem and don't know what has been happening the last few days?*
- **Jesus:** *What's been happening?*
- **Cleopas:** *Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet. He was powerful in word and deed. The religious leaders handed him over and he was crucified --- We'd hoped that he was the Redeemer of Israel. It's been 3 days since all this took place. This morning, some of our women went to the tomb, but didn't find his body. We were amazed when they told us that angels had told them Jesus is alive! Some of the men went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn't see Jesus.*
- **Jesus:** *How foolish and slow of heart you are not to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Didn't the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"*

Beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained the Scriptures concerning himself. At Emmaus, Jesus pretended to continue his journey, but they urged him to join them since it was getting late – he did. At the table, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them. At that moment they recognized him, and he disappeared! They asked each other, "**Were not our hearts burning as he opened the Scriptures to us?**" They raced back to Jerusalem and finding the believers, they exclaimed, "**It is true, Jesus is alive!**" They were still telling the crowd everything that had happened, when suddenly, Jesus stood in their midst. The crowd was terrified and thought he was a ghost, but he said to them, "**Why are you troubled and full of doubt? Look at my hands and feet – It's Me!! Touch me! A ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, like I do.... Do you have anything to eat?**" They still didn't believe it was Jesus, but gave him a piece of broiled fish and watched as he ate it right in front of them! Then he said, "**This is what I was trying to tell you all along - Everything must be fulfilled that was written about me in the Old Testament.**" Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures regarding his suffering, death and resurrection.

Finally, he said, *“Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in my name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are my witnesses and I am going to send you what my Father promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”* {Luke 24:13-49}

While he was blessing the disciples, Jesus was taken up into heaven. Full of joy, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. They went to the Temple, worshipping and praising God.

Continued in the book of Acts.....

Take Aways

The closing chapters of Luke reflect the other Gospels, however, in some cases, he gives more detail:

- Jesus wept over Jerusalem {19:41-44}
- Jesus' encounter with Herod {23:6-12}
- The Extended Emmaus story {24:13-35}
- The Promise of the Holy Spirit {24:49 – which ties in nicely with the beginning of Acts}

Before we can see the beauty and power of the cross, we must first see its necessity. The ultimate evidence that Jesus came to “Seek and Save the Lost” was his death. Yes, he came to show the Father. Yes, he came to identify with us – after all his favorite name for himself was “The Son of Man”. Yes, he came to show the true colors of Satan. He came to do all those things and so much more, but the overarching reason he left the glory of heaven was to save us.

We had to celebrate! Your brother was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. {Luke 15:32}