

Reflection / Small Group Discussion Questions

Luke 21

1. In Luke 21, Jesus exposes the false security people placed in the beauty and permanence of the Jerusalem Temple.

- a) Why were the Jewish people so captivated by the “noble stones” of the temple? Consider both its physical grandeur and its symbolic significance for their identity and faith.
- b) According to Luke, why was the temple coming under judgment? Reflect on the contrast between the corrupt religion of Luke 20:45–47 and the sincere devotion of the widow in 21:1–4.
- c) Jesus’ words about the temple would not have been welcome. Why might he choose to say them at this moment, and what reactions do we see in 19:45–48 and 22:1? Why are the religious leaders responding to Jesus as they do?

2. Jesus links the destruction of the Temple with the final judgment of the whole cosmos.

- a) What is the symbolic and theological connection between the earthly temple and the future cosmic judgment described by Jesus?
- b) Identify phrases in Luke 21 that suggest Jesus is shifting between different time periods. Underline or circle the phrases that indicate these transitions.

3. Throughout Luke 21, Jesus gives commands such as “do not be led astray,” “do not be terrified,” “endure,” “watch,” and “stay awake.”

- a) Using the categories described in the sermon, how would you describe your own attitudes toward end-time events: apocalyptic alarm, dismissive complacency, or calm and fearless faithfulness?
- b) Which tendency do you see most often in yourself?

4. Jesus warns that our hearts can become weighed down by the cares of this life.

- a) Where do you see your soul attaching itself to things that promise security but ultimately cannot deliver it?
- b) The sermon emphasized that repentance means releasing the soul’s demand that created things provide for it identity, purpose, or safety. What is one specific area where you sense Jesus calling you to let go of false security and to rest more deeply in him and in his enduring words?
- c) Close your time by praying for one another, asking the Spirit to free you from false securities and to anchor your trust in what cannot pass away.