

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“Stay Awake”

Luke 21

August 16, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea

Because the King is coming again, disciple-makers live ready every day.

Disciple-Making Focus

Disciple-makers live with urgency because King Jesus is coming again.

I. Disciple-Makers _____ in What Lasts Forever (vv. 1-4)

“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For all these people have put in gifts out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.” (Luke 21:3–4, CSB)

Key Truth:

The King measures faithfulness differently than the world.

II. Disciple-Makers _____ Until the King Returns (vv. 5-24)

“Teacher, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?” (Luke 21:7, NIV)

“There will be a time of great persecution... you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me.” (Luke 21:12–13, NLT)

“Until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24)

Key Truth:

Trials do not interrupt God's mission.
They advance it.

III Disciple-Makers _____ for the King's Return (vv. 25-38)

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is near.” (Luke 21:27–28, CSB)

“Be on your guard... Be alert at all times.” (Luke 21:34, 36)

Key Truth:

Hopeful expectancy produces faithful living.

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Small Group Questions — Week 24

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Week 24: Stay Awake

Text: Luke 21

Start Here — Reflective Question

Have you ever spent time waiting for something important—a wedding, the birth of a child, a graduation, or a special trip? How did knowing it was coming affect the way you lived while you waited?

Read the Passage

Have someone read **Luke 20** aloud before discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. Investing in What Lasts Forever — Luke 21:1–4

Jesus begins His teaching on the future by drawing attention to a poor widow who gave everything she had.

- Why do you think Jesus noticed the widow when everyone else was impressed by the wealthy donors?
- What does her offering teach us about faith, trust, and devotion?
- The sermon said: "The King measures faithfulness differently than the world."

What are some ways our culture measures success differently than Jesus does?

- What would it look like to give God not just your leftovers, but your whole life?

2. Enduring Until the King Returns — Luke 21:5–24

Jesus warned His disciples about difficult days ahead, yet repeatedly encouraged them to remain faithful.

- What kinds of events did Jesus say His followers should expect before His return?
- Why do you think Jesus repeatedly told His disciples, "Do not be frightened"?
- Jesus said persecution would become an opportunity to bear witness. How can difficult circumstances become opportunities to point others to Christ?
- The sermon said: "Trials do not interrupt God's mission. They advance it."

How have you seen God use hardship to strengthen your faith or open doors for ministry?

3. Staying Awake for the King's Return — Luke 21:25–38

Jesus concluded by calling His followers to stay alert and ready for His return.

- What do you think it means practically to "stay awake" spiritually?
- Why do you think Jesus focused more on faithful living than on giving an exact timeline for His return?
- The sermon said: "The question isn't, 'Do you know when He's coming?' The question is, 'Will He find you faithful when He comes?'"

How would you answer that question personally?

- What habits help you keep an eternal perspective in the middle of everyday life?

Disciple-Making Connection

The Disciple-Making Focus this week was: **"Disciple-makers live with urgency because King Jesus is coming again."**

- How should Christ's promised return change the way we approach disciple-making?
- Who in your life needs the hope of the gospel before Christ returns?
- What spiritual conversation could you intentionally begin this week?
- How can this group encourage one another to remain faithful while we wait for the King?

Close Together

Spend time praying together. Pray that God would:

- Help you invest your life in what matters for eternity.
- Strengthen you to remain faithful through trials and uncertainty.
- Keep your heart spiritually awake and focused on Christ.
- Give you courage to live each day with urgency and hope.
- Open doors this week for meaningful spiritual conversations with those who need Jesus.

Weekly Challenge

Each morning this week, pray:

"Lord Jesus, help me live today as though You could return at any moment. Keep my heart awake, my faith strong, and my eyes open to the people around me. Give me one opportunity this week to point someone toward You."

Then intentionally look for one opportunity this week to encourage another believer, begin one spiritual conversation with someone who needs Christ, and make one decision that reflects an eternal perspective rather than a temporary one.