

## Don't Panic

### Luke 21:8-38

Panic:

- a sudden overpowering fright; also: acute, extreme anxiety
- a sudden unreasoning terror often accompanied by mass flight

What do you do when you panic? What does panic look like in your life? (Do you buy lots of toilet paper?) Scream, cry, maybe faint? (Like the fainting goats?)

When I read **Luke 21:8-38; Matthew 24** and put myself in the shoes of the Disciples, I get a little anxious, a little panicked.

They arrived in Jerusalem to see their master celebrated as the Messiah, upon his entry. They have watched as he has gone toe to toe with all the religious elite and destroyed them. (like sticking it to the man!) He also cleaned out the temple. They really weren't paying attention to Jesus words about dying. They were enjoying the sun light on their faces.

Before we begin reading these verses, I feel it is of the utmost importance that I clarify something. When studying the bible, we must be careful. If text is taken out of context it can lead to a wrong conclusion.

**Matthew wrote his gospel to convince fellow Jews that Jesus was the messiah, king**, from the line of David, foretold in the Old Testament. His gospel was written from a Jewish viewpoint for a Jewish audience. The internal evidence of this is so overwhelming that it is often called "The Gospel for the Jews."

**Mark wrote his to show Jesus as the servant.** He skips right over the birth of Jesus, jumps right into his earthly ministry. John Mark's gospel was written from Peter's experience. He presents the Messiah servant.

**Luke wrote his gospel to show Jesus as the son of man**, emphasizing the fact that Jesus was not only fully God, He was also fully man. His gospel was written from a Gentile viewpoint. Luke wrote more about Jesus childhood than the others did.

**John wrote his gospel to show Jesus as God.** Throughout his gospel we see Jesus as the Son of God, and God. He starts right off with, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

**Matthew 24, and Luke 21** were written about what Jesus said to and about the Jewish people and the future of Israel. The proper interpretation is Jesus is speaking to Jewish people about what will happen in the future regarding Israel. **These chapters are not about the church.** We can make applications to our lives today, but we can not place ourselves there and say he is speaking about us.

Israel is under Roman control; Israel has been under the control of Gentiles since 606-586 B.C. The times of the Gentiles will continue until Jesus physically comes back at the end of the Tribulation.

During the time of the Gentiles the church age began. We celebrated the Anniversary of that a couple weeks ago; Acts 2, Pentecost. That was the beginning of a new time (dispensation). The age of the

Church will conclude when Jesus returns for his bride in the air; called the rapture. **(1 Cor. 15:51-53; Col.3:4; 1 Thess. 2:19; 4:13-18; 23. 2 Thess. 2:1, 3; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10)**

**Turn to and read 1 Thess.5:1-27.**

You might have heard me say that God has pressed pause on the nation of Israel until the rapture of the church. That is what the born-again, believers in Jesus Christ are to be looking for with anticipation.

**Philippians 3:19-20, “Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

We are to go, give the gospel, baptizing new believers and train them to be disciples of Jesus. If you are a follower of Jesus you will not experience God’s wrath, THE Tribulation; 7 years of utter death and chaos. But believers will experience tribulations. The tribulations believers will experience won’t compare to the ones experienced in THE Tribulation, but we will experience hard times. (like birth pangs)

As followers, I think its safe to say we need to be busy about the work of Jesus while we still can. Whether we are here another year or another 100, we must be about his business, as if he were coming back today.

**1 John 2:28-29, “And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.” ESV**

Let’s look at what Jesus said to his disciples and the nation of Israel and see what we can apply to our lives today.

**Read Luke 21:8**

So, when things go cattywhampus, when something happens and we begin to panic, what can we do?

**I. Don’t Be Deceived (v.8)**

- Do get fooled, led astray, give into the craziness.
- Jesus said many will come in his name, saying I am Christ. “GO YE NOT.”
- Satan has always used the same tactics to deceive mankind.
- Dispute God’s Word, Deny God’s Word (doubt can lead to denial), Displace God’s Word (does the bible really have a place in today?)
- The idea of absolute truth is being erased, unfortunately it is happening the churches and lives of believers.
- No matter what happens as the birth pangs intensify, do not be deceived from THE TRUTH, Jesus.

**Read Luke 21:9-12**

**II. Don’t Be Afraid (v.9-12)**

- We are living in some crazy, awkward times. You turn on the tv or go onto the internet and all you see is wars, in cities and states in our country. People are literally at each other's throats.
- Speaking to the Sheriff he said calls are up in every demographic, except one. (child abuse)
- To me it feels like, people are doing what's right in their own eyes, even things that are good are being called bad, and bad things are being called good.

**Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." ESV**

**Proverbs 26:12, "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." ESV**

**Proverbs 3:7, "Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil."**

**Judges 21:25, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."**

- Anyone remember what my first point was last week? How to deal with awkward times? Ask yourself, "Who is Jesus?" When you are about to hit the panic button, snap, run someone off the road, ask yourself, who is Jesus? If he is your Lord and Savior, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, to refocus you.
- Jesus gives this answer to the those that are alive and get saved during THE Tribulation. Look at **Luke 21:26-28**. If that's the answer when the cow hits the chipper, shouldn't it be the answer today?

**2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."**

**Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."ESV**

- Followers of Jesus CAN NOT be wise in their own eyes. We must stop trusting in our own reasoning.

**Read Luke 21:12-19**

### **III. Don't Forget Your Testimony (VV. 12-19)**

- Little did the disciples know that Jesus was telling them what their future would hold. And the future of those that live in THE Tribulation.
- We need to be reminded, don't forget your testimony. Before you say it, shout it, or share it, remember who you represent. There is power in your testimony, in your witness.
- Jesus is prophesying that believers will be persecuted, put into prisons, and brought before kings, for his name sake. People they love will turn against them, some will be killed, and all this done because of who they represent, Jesus.
- This is happening today around the world. We are seeing more and more rejection of believers in the world today.
- When the panic sets in we must remember our testimony, who is our Lord and Savior.

- **Read verses 14-15** again. The only way that I have found to do this is to have my mind and heart saturated by the Word of God. When the Word of God has control of my heart, he can give me a mouth of wisdom.

In **verses 20-24** Jesus talks about the fall of Jerusalem in the past (Babylonians 586 B.C.), 40 years after Jesus spoke, A.D. 70 (Titus and the Roman army) and in the future Tribulation.

Then in **verses 25-33** Jesus talks about the last 3.5 years of the Tribulation. How men' hearts will be full of fear. He speaks about the parable of the fig tree. How they knew when it started to bud leaves (in April) that summer was approaching. God's Kingdom was approaching.

#### **Read Luke 21:34-36**

#### **IV. Don't Get Distracted. (VV.34-36)**

- "Watch out, be careful" your heart doesn't get consumed with this life. We should enjoy the things of this world, God blesses people, but we must not allow it to distract us.
- In the distraction we lose our direction, reason for being here. In Matthew 24, he gives them the example of Noah's day. They were living life, getting married, distracted, and not paying attention.
- We could park the message here for another hour of more. In my life, I have and can get distracted each day. I want all the blessings that come from following Jesus, but I don't want the responsibilities. I want to do all I can to earn God's favor so I can be at the front of the blessing line. God's Word says there is no do, Jesus already added the NE, making it done.
- I don't think I am alone in this struggle. Followers, we must learn to lie down at the feet of Jesus. Give him headship, Lordship of our lives, get off the throne and I am not talking about the porcelain one.

**1 Peter 5:6-7, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." ESV**

- Satan loves when we get distracted. When we get caught up in this life. When Christian homes are divided when Christians are fighting with each other. He stands back, watching, smiling, with popcorn and a coke, while we fall into the trap.
- His message is that people across the world in that day were caught up in doing the ordinary things. They were taking life as it came, just living day to day. And they were completely ignoring the warnings all around them. Rather than turning to God in repentance they were drifting alone with the prevailing culture, living lives characterized by the attitudes of the day. And Jesus says that is the way it will be before he returns.
- **Read verse 36**

#### **Conclusion**

Jesus warns us of some great dangers

1. We are not to be deceived into departing from the truth.

2. We are not to be frightened into failing to be a witness for Christ

3. We are not to be distracted into living as if this life is all there is.

What is it you need to take care of today?

Salvation?

Surrender?

Submission?