

## The Story Church - 3.26.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 18 of 22: *The End Times According to Jesus*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Do you have a mostly optimistic or mostly pessimistic view about the future of the world, and why?

Why do you think many people think of "End Times" theology as "fringe" and "cringe"?

Christians aren't the only ones who insist that "the end is near". Where else in our culture have you seen and heard people warning of the *Apocalypse*?

What have Christians always believed about the End Times?

**Luke 21:5-7** Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

What, specifically, did the disciples want to know about *the End Times*?

**Luke 21:8** He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.

Instead of responding directly to the disciples' question about *WHEN* the end would come, Jesus gave them three directives to prepare them for what was coming:

1. **DO NOT BE** \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Do not be deceived by false \_\_\_\_\_  
(see *Matthew 24:36*)
  - b. Do not be deceived by false \_\_\_\_\_  
(see *Colossians 2:8*)
  - c. Do not be deceived by false \_\_\_\_\_  
(See *Colossians 3:1-4*)

d. Follow no one but \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 21:9-11** When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.” Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.”

**2. DO NOT BE \_\_\_\_\_**

a. Fear no one but \_\_\_\_\_  
(See *Matthew 10:28*)

**What are some things, people, and/or events that people tend to be afraid of today?**

**What does Jesus say about such things?** (See Luke 21:9)

**Luke 21:12-19** “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For 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 parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life.”

**3. DO NOT BE \_\_\_\_\_**

a. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

**How can followers of Jesus stand firm and win life in a world like ours?**

Later in Luke 21, Jesus offered more practical advice for Christians living in the last days:

**Luke 21:34-36** “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Why is it important for Christians to be careful, sober, and prayerful?

Your notes:

\* Find the full March Reading Plan at [thestory.church/resources](http://thestory.church/resources)

