



The Words of Jesus Series

End Times

Prophecies and Parables of the End of the Age

Context: Luke 21, Matthew 24 & 25

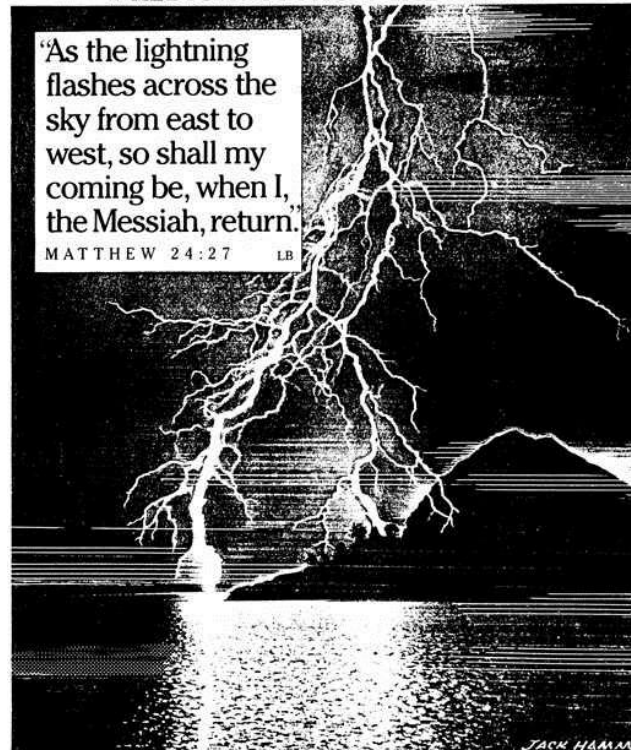
Lesson 1 – Signs of the Times (Luke 21:1-24, Matthew 24:1-28)

Lesson 2 – Get Ready (Luke 21:25-38, Matthew 24:29-Matthew 25:13)

Lesson 3 – The Judgment (Matthew 25:14-46)

Jesus teaches about the end of the age and His Second Coming. He tells the parables of the Fig Tree, the Ten Virgins and Talents. He describes how the sheep and goats will be divided in the Final Judgment.

PREDICTION FROM THE CHRIST



Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Lesson 1 – Signs of the Times (Luke 21:1-24, Matthew 24:1-28)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 21:1-4 How much did the widow put in the treasury? _____

[1B] Luke 21:5-6 What was going to happen to the temple? _____

[1C] Matthew 24:3 Who was Jesus talking to? _____

[1D] Luke 21:7-9 When we hear of wars and disturbances, what are we *not* to do? _____

[1E] Matthew 24:4-8 When we hear of wars and disturbances, what are we *not* to do? _____

[1F] Luke 21:10-11 What will come from heaven? _____

[1G] Luke 21:12-18 Why will we be hated? _____

[1H] Matthew 24:9-14 Where will the gospel of the kingdom be preached? _____

[1I] Luke 21:20-24 How long will Jerusalem be trampled by the feet of the Gentiles? _____

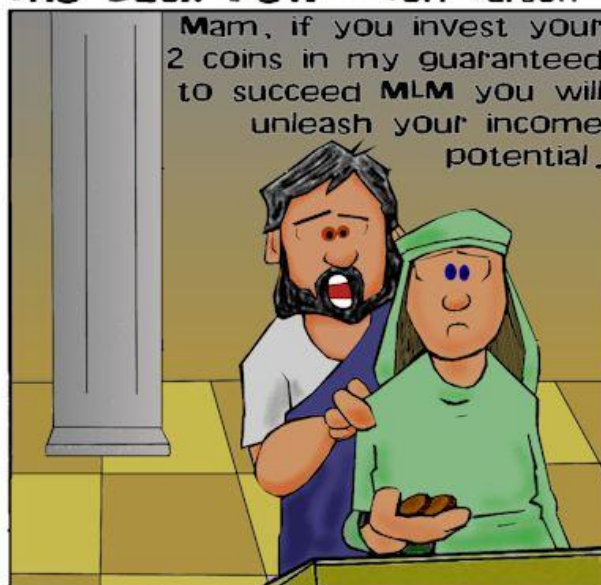
[1J] Matthew 24:15-28 Who will show great signs and wonders trying to mislead people? _____

[1K] How can we distinguish a false Christ or false prophet (Mt 24:24) from the real ones? _____

(Hints: Deuteronomy 13:1-18, 1st John 4:1-6)

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



The widow's gift would have never happened if she would have listened to the guy behind her, and invested in his multi-level-marketing plan. **Luke 21:1-4**

Lesson 1 – Signs of the Times (Luke 21:1-24, Matthew 24:1-28)

[1A] Luke 21:1-4 How much did the widow put in the treasury? Two copper coins, all she had to live on

[1B] Luke 21:5-6 What was going to happen to the temple? It would be torn down (Matt 24:1-2)

[1C] Matthew 24:3 Who was Jesus talking to? His disciples privately

[1D] Luke 21:7-9 When we hear of wars and disturbances, what are we *not* to do? Be terrified

[1E] Matthew 24:4-8 When we hear of wars and disturbances, what are we *not* to do? Be frightened

[1F] Luke 21:10-11 What will come from heaven? Great signs

[1G] Luke 21:12-18 Why will we be hated? Because of the name of Jesus Christ Lk 21:17

[1H] Matthew 24:9-14 Where will the gospel of the kingdom be preached? The whole world

[1I] Luke 21:20-24 How long will Jerusalem be trampled by the feet of the Gentiles?

Until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled

[1J] Matthew 24:15-28 Who will show great signs and wonders trying to mislead people?

False Christs and false prophets. Mt 24:24

[1K] I see three criteria for making the distinction:

First: His coming will be obvious to everyone. (Matthew 24:27)

Second: From the real Christ or His real prophets there will be no suggestions that other Gods should be worshipped, no call to tolerance and inclusiveness of other religions. (Deut. 13:1-18)

Third: Real prophets will confess Jesus Christ crucified, buried, resurrected, and ascended to the right had of the Father. (1st John 4:1-6)

For further thought:

(1L) Why does Matthew give so much more detail than Luke?

(1m) Thinking about Luke 21:1-4: When was the last time you gave so much it hurt?

(1n) In Luke 21:5 what is a "votive gift?"

(1o) Are Luke 21:8 and Matthew 24:24 talking about the same people? How do you know?

(1p) Thinking about Luke 21:12: In a modern context what could "delivering you to the synagogues" mean?

(1q) In Matthew 24:14 what does the phrase "as a testimony to all the nations" mean?

(1r) Thinking about Matthew 24:20: Why pray about that? Aren't the times and events of the end times already decided?

My further thoughts:

(1L) The Bible does not explain but it seems to me Luke is reporting what Jesus said in public (Luke 20:45), and Matthew is reporting what He told His disciples in private. (Matthew 24:3)

(1r) By that reasoning we shouldn't bother to pray about anything. If it wouldn't do any good, why would Matthew tell us to pray? Yes, God knows everything that is going to happen, including what we are going to pray, so He has already decided to answer that prayer.

Lesson 2 – Get Ready (Luke 21:25-38, Matthew 24:29-Matthew 25:13)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] Luke 21:25-28 Why should we lift our heads when things get bad? _____

[2B] Matthew 24:29-31 Who will gather together the elect? _____

[2C] Luke 21:29-33 What will pass away before the words of Jesus? _____

[2D] Matthew 24:32-35 How can we tell when it is Spring? _____

[2E] Matthew 24:36-41 Who knows when the last moment will come? _____

[2F] Luke 21:34-36 What are we to pray for? _____

[2G] Matthew 24:42-44 What are we to do? _____

[2H] Matthew 24:45-51 What happens in the place with the hypocrites? _____

[2I] Matthew 25:1-2 How many of each kind of virgin was there? _____

[2J] Matthew 25:3-4 What did the prudent do that the foolish didn't? _____

[2K] Matthew 25:5-9 Did the prudent share their oil with the foolish? _____

[2L] Matthew 25:10-12 Did the bridegroom forgive the foolish virgins? _____

[2M] Luke 21:37-38 Where was Jesus spending the night? _____

[2N] Who do the characters in the Parable of the Ten Virgins correspond to? What do the lamps and oil represent? Where do you fit in?

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Like a Thief in the Night! **Mat 24:36-42**
Are you ready for Jesus Return?..

Lesson 2 – Get Ready (Luke 21:25-38, Matthew 24:29-Matthew 25:13)

[2A] Luke 21:25-28 Why should we lift our heads when things get bad?

Our redemption is drawing near

[2B] Matthew 24:29-31 Who will gather together the elect? His angels

[2C] Luke 21:29-33 What will pass away before the words of Jesus? Heaven and earth

[2D] Matthew 24:32-35 How can we tell when it is Spring? The trees bud

[2E] Matthew 24:36-41 Who knows when the last moment will come? The Father alone

[2F] Luke 21:34-36 What are we to pray for? Strength to escape and stand before the Son of Man

[2G] Matthew 24:42-44 What are we to do? Be alert and ready Mt 24:42 & 44

[2H] Matthew 24:45-51 What happens in the place with the hypocrites? Weeping and gnashing of teeth

[2I] Matthew 25:1-2 How many of each kind of virgin was there? 5 foolish, and 5 prudent

[2J] Matthew 25:3-4 What did the prudent do that the foolish didn't? Brought oil for their lamps

[2K] Matthew 25:5-9 Did the prudent share their oil with the foolish? No

[2L] Matthew 25:10-12 Did the bridegroom forgive the foolish virgins? No

[2M] Luke 21:37-38 Where was Jesus spending the night? Mt. Olivet

[2N] Some would say that the bridegroom is Jesus, that the prudent virgins are believers, the foolish virgins are non-believers and the oil in their lamps represents their faith. Jesus is not explicit, so maybe they are right, but that is not what I think. I agree that the bridegroom is Jesus, but I think the non-believers are not mentioned. The virgins are the believers. The prudent virgins are the ones that endure. The lamps is our faith and the oil is our ability to endure to the end. Whether you agree with my interpretation of the Parable of the Ten Virgins or not, there remains a question. What are we to do to make sure we have enough oil in our lamps? How are we to prepare?

I think we are to tend to the basics and let everything else sort out for itself. We are to love God and worship Him with all our heart. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are to pray without ceasing. We are to study the Bible and try our best to obey the teachings of the Lord. We are to preach the gospel at every opportunity. When things start getting really bad, we are to continue doing exactly the same thing.

For further thought:

(2o) What does "weeping and gnashing of teeth" in Matthew 24:51 mean?

(2p) Why would a bridegroom plan to meet ten virgins? Why would a failure to have oil in their lamps cause them to be excluded? Wouldn't the light of five lamps be enough?

(2q) Thinking about Luke 21:26: Is "men fainting from fear" literal or a figure of speech? How do you know?

(2r) What does the phrase "redemption is drawing near" in Luke 21:28 mean? Aren't we already saved?

(2s) What are you doing to make sure you have oil in your lamp when He returns?

(2t) How can we help each other to be alert and ready?

Lesson 3 – The Judgment (Matthew 25:14-46)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Matthew 25:14-18 What did the one with one talent do? _____

[3B] Matthew 25:19-21 How was the responsible slave rewarded? _____

[3C] Matthew 25:22-23 How was the responsible slave rewarded? _____

[3D] Matthew 25:24-30 What happened to the irresponsible slave? _____

[3E] Matthew 25:31 When the Son of Man comes where will He sit? _____

[3F] Matthew 25:32-33 Who will be separated? _____

[3G] Matthew 25:34 What will the ones on the right receive? _____

[3H] Matthew 25:35-40 Why will they be rewarded? _____

[3I] Matthew 25:41 What will the ones on the left receive? _____

[3J] Matthew 25:42-45 Why will they be cursed? _____

[3K] Matthew 25:46 Where will the righteous go? _____

[3L] If the Final Judgment is based on what we do, (Matthew 25:31-47), what happens to salvation by faith? Where is God's grace and mercy?

Think & Pray _____



A Spiritual Couch Potato
When you are spiritually well-fed, well-read but in need of a little Spiritual Exercise (volunteer in the community, at church, help you neighbor.) **Matthew 25:31-46, James 2:16**

Lesson 3 – The Judgment (Matthew 25:14-46)

[3A] Matthew 25:14-18 What did the one with one talent do? Buried it in a hole

[3B] Matthew 25:19-21 How was the responsible slave rewarded?

More responsibility and the joy of his master

[3C] Matthew 25:22-23 How was the responsible slave rewarded?

More responsibility and the joy of his master

[3D] Matthew 25:24-30 What happened to the irresponsible slave?

Thrown into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

[3E] Matthew 25:31 When the Son of Man comes where will He sit? On His glorious throne

[3F] Matthew 25:32-33 Who will be separated? Sheep and goats

[3G] Matthew 25:34 What will the ones on the right receive?

The kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world

[3H] Matthew 25:35-40 Why will they be rewarded? They fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, extended hospitality to strangers, gave clothing to the naked, and visited those in prison.

[3I] Matthew 25:41 What will the ones on the left receive?

A place in the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels

[3J] Matthew 25:42-45 Why will they be cursed? They did nothing for anyone

[3K] Matthew 25:46 Where will the righteous go? Into eternal life

[3L] It is important to notice in this account that the righteous were unaware of their righteousness and the evil were unaware of their evil. It is also important to notice that the condemned are judged for their failure to do right, not for the evil they had done. It is not prophesy about actual events; else it would mention people, not animals, in my opinion. It is preaching designed to bring the listener to repentance as we realize how far short we fall of what we ought to be. Notice the list of righteous and evil things. To end up on the right you must do them all. To end up on the left you only have to fail to do one. By that reckoning we all end up on the left, helpless, and desperate for the grace and mercy of God.

For Further Thought:

(3m) Compare Matthew 25:14-30 with Luke 19:11-27. What is the same? What is different?

(3n) Compare Matthew 25:24-30 with 24:48-51. Is it the same story told two different ways? How do you know?

(3o) Can you think of an example from your own life where you have done each of the things on the list in Matthew 25:35-36?

(3p) What does "outer darkness" mean in Matthew 25:30?

(3q) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?

(3r) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?

(3s) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?