A Study of the Gospel of Luke, Part Two Lesson 18

>	Read	Luke	21:5	-38
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As you read, note that this teaching of Jesus covers events in the near and distant future.

1. On this particular day, what are the disciples focused on? (v. 5; see Jesus' focus in verses 1–4)

The Temple

"On the majestic appearance of the Temple, Josephus... 'relates that the entire facade of the Temple was covered with gold plates. When the sun rose the reflection was nearly blinding. On a clear day the brilliance of the Temple was visible from a considerable distance outside of Jerusalem. And this brilliance was not due to gold alone; the upper parts of the Temple were pure white, probably marble... At the very top gold spikes lined the roof... the stones were enormous, almost 40 feet long and 12 feet high...'"

2. What does Jesus see when he looks at the temple? (v. 6)

3. How does Jesus' graphic prediction about what will happen to the temple also picture what is about to happen in the coming week? (Jn. 2:19–22; Is. 53:5)

- 4. In response to the disciples' questions, Jesus tells them more about what will happen in the coming days.
 - a. What concern does he have for them? (vv. 8-9)
 - b. What does he say to prepare them for these coming difficulties? (vv. 8-9)

5.	The next two verses fast forward to a time in the far-off future. W (vv. $10-11$; \square * Joel $2:30-31$)	hat will characterize these times?
6.	Verse 12 snaps us back to what will happen "before all this." How disciples? (vv. 12, 16–17)	does Jesus describe what awaits his
	What will result from this persecution? (v. 13; read Philippians 1:	12–14 for a real-life example)
7.	How does Jesus strengthen and encourage the disciples in light of mind that Jesus will face these same trials before they do.) vv. 14–15	these frightening events? (Keep in
	vv. 18-19	
	Jn. 15:18-20	
8.	Terrible times are ahead, and Jesus knows all the horrific details. What does he reveal to them about the certain fall of Jerusalem, which is only about 40 years in the future? (vv. 20–24; Lk. 19:43–44)	"In A.D. 70 Jesus' prediction of Jerusalem's fall was fulfilled. After a long siege in which many people starved to death the city was brutally conquered by the Romans, the remaining people were either murdered or taken as slaves and the temple was set on fire."

9.	In verses 12–24 Jesus has discussed the near future (persecution) and the not-too-distant future (fall of Jerusalem). Now in verse 25 he returns to the far-off future (when he comes again in power and glory). a. How will people respond to these signs in the heavens and on earth described in verse 25? (v. 26)
	b. What perspective changes the way believers are to interpret these times? (vv. 28–31)
	c. What can we depend on when the foundations seem to be shaking? (v. 33, \square Ps. 46)
10	. Why does Jesus warn his disciples to "Be careful" in verse 34?
11	. In verse 36 Jesus commands his disciples to "Be always on the watch, and pray." This command is intended to protect them when they are tempted either to be oblivious to the times they are living in or to cower in fear because of them. It is the same charge Jesus will give his disciples in his darkest hour in the garden of Gethsemane, and it is the same thing he calls us to do.
	What does watching and praying look like in your own life? (watching for what? praying how?)

12. Verses 37–38 give us a window into Jesus' daily routine. His enemies were closing in and seeking a way to put him to death, but he kept the bigger picture in view and completed the work the Father had for him to do. How can Jesus' instructions, warnings, and words of comfort in this week's passage help you to keep doing the Father's will in the midst of difficult times?
13. Jesus was fully present in the moment and with the people around him, but he also lived fully aware of
what was to come. Ask the Lord to help you live in the same way, full of faith in his purposes and plans.
* For further study ¹ Philip W. Comfort, Gen. Ed. <i>Cornerstone Biblical Commentary</i> , Vol. 12 (The Gospel of Luke; Acts) (Carol Stream; Tyndale, 2006), 278.