

The Luke Journey Days 61- 70

Day 61 - Read Luke 19:28-48

Jesus has had his face set towards Jerusalem since 9:51. He has said three times what will happen there. Now it begins...

- How is Jesus in control of this situation? (v34)
- Who do the crowd proclaim Jesus to be? (v35-38) Why are they right to do so? (v39-40)
- Jesus comes as heaven's king, to a city which rejects him. But how does Jesus respond to it? (v41-44)
- What had God created his temple to be? What had it become? (v45-46)

Here is God's king, come to God's city and God's temple. Jesus judges the temple - it was designed to be a place the nations could call to God. But they have been using it as a den of robbers - not only perhaps defrauding people in their trading, but using their religion as an excuse to hold God at arm's length (Jer 7:11). Jesus longs for these people to return to God, but they will not...

- What encourages you in your trust of Jesus from these verses? Are there ways you use religion to hold God at arm's length, or your religious actions are empty?
- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus comes as heaven's king. Thank you for his merciful heart. Deliver me from empty religion in my life that I might love Jesus on the inside and out.. Amen.*

Day 62 - Read Luke 20:1-19

Having cleared the temple, the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders heightens. It comes in 5 rounds. Today are Rounds 1 and 2...

- Round 1 - What do the religious leaders want to know? Why is that a natural question to ask? (v1-2)

- How does Jesus' answer show up their hypocrisy? (v3-8)

They want to know the answer - but do they? Jesus shows that they refused to believe the authority by which John ministered, so why would it be any different when Jesus answers. Jesus is merciful and kind, but he won't be mocked. If we are not willing to follow where our questions lead, we won't get an answer.

- Round 2 - How does Jesus' parable lead to the crowds response? (v9-16)

- Jesus is the Son in the parable. His Father the vineyard owner. God has planted a people, and left the religious leaders to tend them. But through Bible history they rejected God's messengers and now they will kill the Son. It is a shocking tale, but true.

- Why is our response to Jesus so vital? (v18)

Jesus is the stone people rejected. But God didn't - he has made Jesus the most important stone. We can either line our lives up with the Cornerstone, or stumble over him.

- Are you stumbling over Jesus or lining your life up on Jesus? Are there ways which fearing what other people think of you (v6,19) are holding you back from responding?

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is the cornerstone. Help me to line up my life on him. Help me not to hold back on living for Jesus because of what other people think. Amen.*

Day 63 - Read Luke 20:20-40

The head to head continues, hypocrisy is uncovered and God's power and worth are declared...

- Round 3 - What is the spies' question? (v22) Why could an answer potentially cause Jesus to get in trouble?

- How does Jesus answer? (v23-26)

- We too are responsible to the governments God has place over us. But we also have been made in God's image - we have his image and inscription on us. Our very lives are his. What will it look like for you to 'give to Caesar what is Caesars, and to God what is God's'?

- Round 4 - What are the Sadducees hoping to do? (27-33)

- What two things does Jesus show up they have not understood? (v34-40)

Their story makes us smile. It is meant to mock any idea of a resurrection. But Jesus shows they have it wrong. Wrong about the future - the resurrection life is a totally different order of life. There will be no marriage then. And God is far more powerful than they allow - he is the God of the living!

- We might be single or married, how does this vision of the future change how we think about marriage? How does God's power encourage us today?

- *Dear Father, thank you that you are the God of the living. Thank you that in Jesus you offer his people resurrection life in the kingdom. Until that day, help me to give to you what is yours - my very life. Amen.*

Day 64 - Read Luke 20:41-21:4

The head to head changes course. Now Jesus goes on the offensive...

- Round 5 - The Old Testament promised that the Christ would be one of King David's descendants. But Psalm 110 also said David knew the Christ to be greater than him - his Lord. What is Jesus' question? (v41-44)

Jesus shows up their thoughtless religion. They held these truths it would seem, but didn't understand them or believe them. Their view of the Christ was too small.

- How do these verses give you a bigger picture of who Jesus is? (42-43)

- What is Jesus' warning about religious hypocrisy? (v45-47)

- Jesus now honours a widow over the 'religious'. How is her offering more pleasing to God? (v1-4)

- As followers of Jesus we are called to give to God's work - is our giving 'out of our wealth' (that is it make little impact on what we have) Or does it sacrificially trust God?

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is Lord, who reigns and will one day subdue all that stands against his good purposes. Help me to*

have life where my motives and actions match in love for you. Amen.

Day 65 - Read Luke 21:5-38

The temple surroundings leads us to look to the kingdom's return once again...

- What will life be like in the world in the days between Jesus' going back to heaven and his return? (9-11)

- What will it be like for Jesus' followers? (v8, 12-19)

- What will happen to Jerusalem? (v20-24)

- But these are not the end. They are all things which will happen before the end. Yet what will people experience one day? (v27-28)

- When we see all these things in the world, what should they lead us to do? (v29-31)

- When the world is full of chaos, we can seek to numb our pain through different things (food, drink, shopping) or worry our way through. What does Jesus call us to do instead? (v18-19, v28, 36)
Jesus' words about his return can be trusted. He said Jerusalem would fall, and 40 years later it did. He spoke of what the world would experience, and we experience it now. Trust in Jesus is what we need to stand in these times and and the last day.

- Do you allow the troubles you see in the world to cause you to 'lift your heads' to Jesus and his return? Are there ways you heart is weighed down at present? (v34)

- *Dear Father, thank you that one day Jesus will return to bring your perfect kingdom. Please give us trust in Jesus to stand before him then, and stand firm now. Amen.*

Day 66 - Read Luke 22:1-23

We now enter the final days before the cross. It looks like Jesus is now in the hands of others plans. But is he?

- When do these events take place? (v1, 7) Why do you think Luke wants us to know that?

Passover was the great festival remembering God rescuing his people from slavery. A rescue where a perfect lamb was sacrificed on behalf of those it was rescuing. The timing of the cross is not an accident.

- What does Judas do? (v1-6) Who else is at work? (v3)

- What clues are there that Jesus is in control? (v7-13)

- As Jesus takes this historic meal, who does he say it was always pointing to? (v14-20) What will Jesus' death bring about?

Jesus will be broken, his blood poured out. It will bring a new promise (covenant) between God and people, whereby they can be freed from sin, and saved into the kingdom.

- How will this not be the end for Jesus though? (v16, v18)

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is the perfect Lamb. He never sinned. Yet thank you he was willing to be broken for me, to pay for my sin. Help me to rely on his death alone to bring me into the joy of the kingdom. Amen*

Day 67 - Read Luke 22:24-38

Jesus is close to the cross, but his followers are far from close to him in spirit...

- How do the world's rulers and leaders rule? (v24-25) By being called benefactors, what do they wish to gain from their leadership?
- How do we see this in our world? How are Jesus' followers to be different? (v26-27)
- How will this be hard? Yet what encouragement does Jesus give to the disciples? (28-30)

The tone ominously changes, as first Peter's denials are foretold, and then what the circumstances will be like. Jesus tells them that they will need swords now. Not literally - for in a few hours Jesus will tell Peter to put away his sword. But they will need the courage which realises they are in a time when a sword is more necessary than a cloak. Perilous times are ahead. The disciples don't see this - they think weapons alone will sort this (v38).

- But why is this happening? (v37)
- What will it look like for you to take the position of a servant today among the people you live with, or call, or connect with?
- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but comes amongst us as a servant - serving us even unto death. Help me not to lord it over others today, but have the attitude of a servant. Amen.*

Day 68 - Read Luke 22:39-53

If we ever want to know how much forgiveness cost Jesus, we see it in the Garden of Gethsemane...

- What does Jesus call his disciples to pray for twice here? (v40, 45-46) What temptations do you think they face in the coming hours?

- What does Jesus pray for? What signs are there that drinking 'this cup' will be terrible for Jesus? (v41-44)

The 'cup' in the Old Testament was the cup of God's wrath. It symbolised God's right response to sin in judgement being poured out. Jesus knows that to go to the cross will mean drinking the cup of punishment for sin, which we deserve, down to the very dregs. Yet he is willing.

- How does this passage help us see how awful our sin is? How wonderful Jesus is?

- Jesus is now betrayed - by a kiss, from a friend. What temptation do the disciples give into? (49-51) But Jesus does not need force to solve this situation. He is in control, and is willingly putting himself under the reign of darkness for a time.

- What temptations do you find yourself falling for regularly? Pray that you would know Jesus the Saviour helping you.

- *Dear Father, I deserve to drink the cup for all eternity for my sin. Thank you that Jesus was willing to drink it for me. Help me to flee from temptation to the Lord who loves me. Amen.*

Day 69 - Read Luke 22:54-71

The disciples were to pray they would not fall into temptation. Now one of those temptations come...

- How do the accusations build for Peter? How does his response? (v54-60)

- What leads Peter to leave in tears? (v60-62)

Peter has denied his friend and teacher three times. Peter has not being willing to die with Jesus, as he said he would be. Peter feels the weight of his failure and sin.

- For Peter this terrible moment is the culmination of pride, prayerlessness and fear of others. Are they traits you recognise in yourself?

- Have there been times when you have been quiet and unwilling to be known as Jesus' follower? Talk to the Father about your feelings and failings.

- The first of Jesus' trials begins. Why will Jesus not directly answer their questions? (67-70)

- How is Jesus' understanding of this identity so far from their understanding?

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus really is your Son and King. Thank you that all power and authority are his. Help me to so love Jesus today that I do not fear others. Amen.*

Day 70 - Read Luke 23:1-25

Jesus' trials continue and the outcome is shocking...

- What accusations are made against Jesus? Are they true? (v1-5)
- What does Pilate want to know from Jesus? (v3) What does Herod want? (v6-8) Why do you think they get different responses from Jesus?

Pilate's question seems genuine, seeking an answer. Herod wants a show. There is no real seeking of Jesus here. Genuine seeking gets an answer, empty interest does not.

- What declaration do we get made about Jesus in v4, v14, v15 and v22? Why do you think that is significant?

Jesus' innocence makes what is about to happen even more unjust and sad. But it also helps point us to Jesus' identity. At the Passover, where God rescued his people, the lamb had to be without blemish. Jesus, the true Passover sacrifice was without blemish morally. He is qualified to be the rescuer.

- What is the shock of the exchange that takes place? (v23-25)
- The 'swap' of Jesus and Barabbas is a picture of the gospel. The innocent king dies in the place of a guilty, rebel who is set free. Ponder how Jesus has done that for you and thank him.
- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is the innocent one. Yet he was willing to be condemned in my place, that I might be forgiven by you*

and set free from my sin. Help me grow in genuine seeking of Jesus more and more. Amen.