

► **Read Luke 21:5–38.**

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...’ ”<sup>1</sup>

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. What will characterize these times? (vv. 10–11; \* Joel 2:30–31)

6. Verse 12 snaps us back to what will happen “before all this.” How does Jesus describe what awaits his disciples? (vv. 12, 16–17)

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 these frightening events? (Keep in mind that Jesus will face these same trials before they do.)  
vv. 14–15

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)

### *The Temple*

“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.”<sup>2</sup>



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

<sup>1</sup> Philip W. Comfort, Gen. Ed. *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*. Vol. 12 (The Gospel of Luke; Acts) (Carol Stream: Tyndale, 2006), 278.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.templemount.org/destroy2.html>