

Luke 21:1-4 The Widow's Offering Two Mites (Mark 12:41-44)

Luk 21:1 And He(Jesus in the Temple) looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury (one of 13 offering chests in the temple),

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith 3,000 series

The ministry of Jesus is in its final days. Sunday He made His triumphant entry into the city, was rejected. Monday He came back into the temple and cleansed it. And daily He was in the temple teaching. On one of these days, perhaps Tuesday, the religious leaders came seeking to trap Him in His speech, asking Him trick questions, hoping that He would get caught in saying something negative towards Rome or towards their religious beliefs; in order that they might accuse Him and get Him a sentence of death. Jesus was far too clever for them. He could perceive their duplicity and He actually silenced them. They really hesitated asking Him any further questions because of His brilliant answers.

Mar 12:41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.

Mat 6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Mat 6:2 "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:3 "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Mat 6:4 "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Luk 21:2 and He(Jesus) saw also a certain poor widow putting in (offering box), two mites (two small copper coins (Gr. lepta), approx. 1/64 of a laborer's daily wage).

Luk 21:3 So He(Jesus) said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all (proportionally);

Luk 21:4 "for all these, out of their abundance (surplus), have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty, put in all the livelihood (everything) that she had (to live on)."

2Cor 8:12 For if there is first a willing mind (eagerness to give), it is accepted according to what one has (gives), and not according to what he does not have.

God doesn't want anyone to give grudgingly. God loves the cheerful giver. The widow's gift shows us that the value of a gift can be determined by what it costs the giver.

Luke 21:5-6 Jesus Predicts the Destruction of the Temple (Mat 24:1, 2; Mark 13:1, 2)

Luk 21:5 Then, as some (of his disciples) spoke of the temple, how it was adorned (decorated) with beautiful stones and donations (dedicated gifts, some of gold), He(Jesus) said,

Mar 13:1 Then as He(Jesus) went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him(Jesus), "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"

This temple was originally rebuilt by Zerubbabel and Ezra 6:15), but greatly expanded and improved by Herod

(AMP notes) The massive size and polished surfaces of the fitted stones that formed the temple structure created a magnificent sight (cf Luke 21:5). The refurbishing of the temple was begun by Herod the Great in 20 B.C. and was completed in A.D. 64 by Herod Agrippa II. The rabbis had a saying: "Whoever has not seen the temple of Herod has never seen a beautiful building" (as quoted from the Talmud). They also said that Herod built it of yellow, white, and perhaps blue marble; and that he intended to cover it with gold, but the rabbis advised him not to because it was beautiful just as it was, looking like the waves of the sea.

Luk 21:6 "These things which you see (you are looking at)--the days will come, in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown (or knocked) down."(**In A.D. 70, approximately six years after the temple was completed, it was destroyed by the Roman general Titus and his army).**

Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple, a.d. 70

They probably thought that when the temple was destroyed, it would be the end of the age

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem and soon destruction

Luk 19:41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

Luk 19:42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Luk 19:43 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,

Luk 19:44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, "because" you did not know the time of your visitation."

Luke 21:7-19 The Signs of the Times and Christ Coming at the End of the Age (Mat 24:3–14; Mark 13:3–13)

Luk 21:7 So they asked Him(**Jesus**), saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be (**or happen**)? And what sign (**verifiable miracle**) will there be when these things are about to take place?"

Both Matthew (a more complete account) and Luke make it clear that Jesus is speaking both of the coming destruction of Jerusalem, and of the ultimate end of the age and His glorious return. Prophecies may have near and far fulfillments.

Luk 21:8 And He(**Jesus**) said: "Take heed that you not be deceived (**or misled**). For many will come in My name, saying (**claiming**), 'I am He (**the Messiah**),' and, 'The time has drawn near (**at hand, now**).' Therefore do not go after (**follow or believe**) them.

Imposters will proclaim the title Messiah.

Some correlation passages

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Eph 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Mat 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Col 2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

1John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Luk 21:9 "But when you hear of wars and commotions (**disturbances, civil unrest, revolts, uprisings**), do not be terrified (**or panic**); for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come (**or follow**) immediately."

Luk 21:10 Then He(**Jesus**) said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

Luk 21:11 "And there will be great (**violent**) earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences (**deadly plagues, epidemics**); and there will be fearful sights and great signs (**verifiable miracles**) from heaven.

A great earthquake

Rev 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

Rev 6:16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

Rev 6:17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Luk 21:12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you (**seize you**) and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake (**Why? because you are my followers**).

Church in Smyrna The Persecuted Church

Rev 2:10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested (your faith will be tested), and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death (if you must die for your faith), and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

Luk 21:13 "But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony (**this will be your opportunity to testify about Me, you will be a witness against them**).

Most important things is Christ is Preached even in suffering and hardships

Phl 1:12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

Phl 1:13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

Phl 1:14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Phl 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Phl 1:28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

Phl 1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Phl 1:30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Luk 21:14 "Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer (**don't worry in advance, how you are going to defend yourselves**)

Do not to meditate beforehand how you are going to answer

The Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say

Luk 12:11 "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say.

Luk 12:12 "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

Luk 21:15 "for I(**Jesus**) will give you a mouth (**with skillful words**) and wisdom which all your adversaries (**opponents**) will not be able to contradict or resist.

Act 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Act 6:10 And they (**from Synagogue of the Freedmen**) were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit (HS) by which he(**Stephen**) spoke.

Luk 21:16 "You will be betrayed (**by those close to you**) even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

Beware of trusting in others, Trust in God and His Word

Mic 7:5 Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom.

Mic 7:6 For son dishonors father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

Mic 7:7 Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

Some of you are going to be killed. You're going to be beaten. Jesus didn't hide the problems that they were going to face Christians

Luk 21:17 "And you will be hated by all (**unbelievers**), for My name's sake (**because you are my followers and are a testimony against them**).

Mat 10:22 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake (**being my follower**). But he (**everyone**) who endures to the end will be saved.

Confess Christ Before Men

Mat 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 10:33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Luk 21:18 "But not a hair of your head shall be lost (**or perish eternally**).

Metaphorically speaking God's people will suffer no eternal spiritual harm

Mat 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Luk 21:19 "By your patience possess your souls (**by standing firm, empowered by the Holy Spirit you will gain your souls, your life's forever**).

Luke 21:20-24 The Destruction of Jerusalem (Mat 24:15–28; Mark 13:14–23)

Luk 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies (**hostile enemies**), then know (**understand**) that its desolation is near (**destruction has arrived**).

Early tradition declares that the church was gathered one evening in prayer and the Spirit of God through prophecy warned them to flee out the east gate that night. And according to this tradition, they just all fled that night out the east gate and for some unknown reason, the Roman guard at the east gate was not posted that night and thus, the church escaped that night as a result of direction and warning of the Holy Spirit.

Luk 21:21 "Then let those who are in Judea, flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart (**inside the city, Jerusalem, get out**), and let not those who are in the country enter her (**not enter or return to the city**).

Get away quickly, do not turn back to get anything, while there is still time

Mat 24:17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

Mat 24:18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

Mat 24:21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Luk 21:22 "For these are the days of vengeance (**Gods justice, judgement**), that all things which are written (**prophetically in the scriptures**) may be fulfilled.

Luk 21:23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people (**Israel**).

Luk 21:24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword (**killed**), and (**some will**) be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (**completed**).

Daniel Seventy-Weeks Prophecy

Dan 9:27 Then he (**Antichrist**) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (seven years); But in the middle of the week (3 1/2yrs) He(**Antichrist**) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Luke 21:25-28 The Coming of the Son of Man (Mat 24:29–31; Mark 13:24–27)

Luk 21:25 "And there will be signs (**verifiable miracle**) in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring (**tidal waves and strange tides**);

The Day of the Lord

2Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2Pet 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2Pet 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

2Pet 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Luk 21:26 "men's hearts failing them (**fainting**) from fear and the expectation (**terrifying thoughts**) of those things which are coming on the (**inhabited**) earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Abomination of desolation

Mar 13:14 "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not (**in the temple sanctuary**)" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Luk 21:27 "Then they will see the Son of Man (**a title: Jesus used for himself**) coming in a cloud, with power (**overwhelming power to subdue the nations**) and great glory (**See Dan 7:13**).

The second coming involves the visible return of the Son of Man

Mat 24:30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Rev 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Luk 21:28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up (**stand tall**) and lift up your heads (**with joy**), because (**suffering will end and**) your redemption draws near." (**Redemption refers to the time of Christ's return (Rom. 8:23)**)

Luke 21:29-33 The Parable of the Fig Tree (Mat 24:32-35; Mark 13:28-31)

Luk 21:29 Then He(**Jesus**) spoke to them a parable (**this illustration**): "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

Luk 21:30 "When they(**trees**) are already budding (**bringing forth leaves**), you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

Luk 21:31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know (**without any doubt**) that the kingdom of God is near.

Luk 21:32 "Assuredly, I say to you (**I tell you the truth**), this generation (**or race**) will by no means pass away till all things take place (**precedes the second coming and then comes the establishment of God's kingdom**).

This generation could refer to the Jews and if that is so, it's true, they have not passed away. Miraculously they survived 2,000 years without a homeland. Or it could refer to the generation that sees the beginning of these things and stays alive.

Luk 21:33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Luke 21:34-38 Warning: To Watch and Pray for His Coming (Mat 24:36–44; Mark 13:32–37)

Luk 21:34 "But take heed to yourselves (**protect yourself, be on guard**), lest your hearts be weighed down (**depressed, lost**) with carousing, drunkenness, and cares (**worries**) of this life, and that Day come (**when the Messiah returns**) on you unexpectedly (**unaware, like a trap**).

Luk 21:35 "For it will come as a snare (**trap**) on all those who dwell (**live**) on the face of the whole earth.

Luk 21:36 "Watch therefore (**be alert and attentive**), and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man (**at his presence when He comes**)."

Luk 21:37 And in the daytime He(**Jesus**) was teaching in the temple (**porches and courts**), but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet (**Mount of Olives, Olive Grove**).

Luk 21:38 Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him (**Jesus teach**).

End

Prayer

Extra Scriptures:

Charts:

Examples of Putting Your Treasures in Heaven

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Short Phrase</u>
Eternal focus	Matthew 6:19–21	Store treasures, where it lasts
Right priorities	Colossians 3:2–3	Set your mind on heaven
Faithful works rewarded	1Corinthians 3:12–14	God rewards what endures
Giving to others	Luke 12:33–34	Give: gain heavenly treasure
Using money wisely	Luke 16:9	Use wealth for eternity
Giving to the church	Malachi 3:10	Honor God with giving
Supporting ministry	Matthew 10:41–42	Share in their reward
Ministry partnership	Philippians 4:17	Fruit credited to you
Volunteering / serving	1Peter 4:10	Use your gifts to serve
Serving faithfully	Hebrews 6:10	God remembers your service
Helping the poor	Proverbs 19:17	Lending to the Lord, He will repay
Helping “the least”	Matthew 25:40	Serving others = serving Christ
Cup of water	Matthew 10:42	Small acts count
Hospitality	Hebrews 13:2	Welcome others
Prayer	Matthew 6:6	Secret prayer rewarded
Seeking God	Hebrews 11:6	God rewards seekers
Perseverance	Galatians 6:9	Don’t quit, harvest will come
Generosity	2Corinthians 9:6	Sow more → reap more
Obedient work	Colossians 3:23–24	Work for the Lord
Self-denial	Matthew 16:24–27	Lose now → gain later
Eternal reward	Revelation 22:12	Jesus brings reward

Practical ways

1) Consistent, sincere prayer

Matthew 6:6 “Pray... in secret, and your Father... will reward you.”

2) Love people (especially the overlooked)

Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you did for one of the least... you did for Me.”

This includes: Poor, Widows, Children, The hurting, less fortunate

3) Generous giving (without seeking attention)

Matthew 6:3–4 “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...”

Give quietly → God rewards openly

4) Seek God first (prioritize eternity)

Matthew 6:33 “Seek first the kingdom of God... all these things shall be added to you.”

5) Walk by faith and be faithful in everyday life

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please God ...

Luke 16:10 "Whoever is faithful in little is faithful in much."

A Parable is a short, earthly story used to illustrate a deep spiritual or moral lesson. The word comes from the Greek parabolē, which literally means "to throw alongside". Think of it as placing a common, everyday truth alongside a heavenly truth so the listener can understand the unknown by looking at the known. There is always a literal meaning (**the story itself**) and a spiritual meaning (**look for the central point, hidden spiritual lesson and truth, a comparison, then application**). A parable typically has one main interpretation, but it can have many different applications depending on a person's specific circumstances.

In the study of parables, the interpretive principle of Expositional Constancy suggests that God uses symbols with consistent meaning throughout Scripture providing a reliable pattern, consistency or correlation to guide understanding and interpretation.

Mar 4:13 And He(Jesus) said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? Jesus is saying if you don't understand the first parable and the meanings how are you going to understand the others. Remember Jesus took the disciples aside and explained to them the meaning privately.