

## **[Overcharged with Surfeiting] / Gospel of Luke Chapter Twenty-One**

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~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God crosses over into the prophetic section of Luke's account of the Gospel in this report. There is no need for guessing or speculation to get the meaning of this message. This would normally correspond to the Olivet Discourse, but Luke deals most practically with every aspect of the meaning of life. Most of the record we will consider is no longer prophecy – it's history – or, fulfilled prophecy! Prophecy is the mold into which history is poured. It sets like concrete and there's already been some pouring done in our minds on safari....

***1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men that were casting their gifts into the treasury.***

***2 And he saw a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.***

***3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, This poor widow cast in more than they all:***

***4 for all these did of their superfluity cast in unto the gifts; but she of her want did cast in all the living that she had.***

~ The extreme wealth of the temple meant that her little gift didn't amount to very much. This woman's gift didn't mean the difference between the upkeep of the temple and disrepair, to be sure. Well, God doesn't measure our giving in the same way we do. In fact, God says His thoughts are not our thoughts – who can know God's thoughts? God does the measuring of our giving by what you keep for yourself. That is called giving in grace; and graceful giving means many people should be giving much more than they do. God has blessed some people so abundantly that they should ask forgiveness for stealing from Him when their giving ratio to income and assets - not to mention the place to which they do their giving - are all wrong.

This Spiritual Safari doesn't appeal to the rich man. Our expedition continues with the barest of minimal resources, you may be absolutely positive. I know how to appeal to the rich, but it would compromise everything my ministry is attempting to do – get the Word of God out to the entire world in a complete and correct teaching of the sound doctrine of the apostles, led by the Holy Spirit Himself. When the Bible talks about giving, I will talk about giving; but if this ministry doesn't receive support then, apparently, it is not blessing anyone's life. I hope you are asking the Holy Spirit in prayer to continue to take His Word to the entire world in the Spiritual Safari; and for Him to reveal to you how you might help me do exactly that! I'm not sure many people realize what a tremendous, overwhelming but exciting task this really is. In fact, I know very few recognize it. This world places absolutely no value on sound Bible teaching whatsoever....

***5 And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and offerings, he said,***

~ When Jesus made this remark about the widow's value in giving, I'm sure they all looked at each other in uncertainty. Even the apostles must have thought Jesus was joking with them at this point. The small net-giver is generally giving in a much larger ratio than the person who appears to be the so called "big giver." It happens that way almost every time. The measure of your giving is not in the percentages; it is in the sacrifice of what it actually costs you. Remember, King David said he wouldn't offer a sacrifice that had not cost him anything. David could have offered an entire flock as a sacrifice, and it would have been a public relations victory for him as he seemingly offered some huge sacrifice. Friends, David wouldn't have missed one single lamb chop, either; but David didn't do business with his nation that way! ~

***6 As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in which there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.***

~ A statement made by Jesus in an entirely different connection is received exactly the same way – and that is beyond remarkable. You will recall from

Matthew and Mark that the last two questions were emphasized in the Olivet Discourse. The return of Christ to establish His Kingdom was the important message in Matthew. Luke is taking the last part of that series of questions and he deals with ".... when shall these things be?" ~

***7 And they asked him, saying, Teacher, when therefore shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign when these things are about to come to pass?***

***8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not led astray: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am [he]; and, The time is at hand: go ye not after them.***

~ We examined this thoroughly in the Gospel of Matthew, and we know the Lord Jesus gave the same teachings over and over again. Perhaps the apostles became a little weary of Jesus teachings. The Lord seems somewhat disconnected from the apostles at this time in which we are studying. Well, Jesus didn't mind repeating Himself. God always teaches by repetition. Line upon line; precept upon precept - and His thoughts are engraved upon our hearts. If you do the same thing over and over again then you become quite good at it, usually.

The characteristics of the age in which we live is not exactly the false prophet or teacher being so prevalent, although there are quite a few around. Evens so, we live in the age of the false Christ – they are everywhere. Many claim a supernatural power; and most of them move right into the place of Christ Himself by drawing attention only to themselves in some half-baked "ministry" rather than giving the glory to the Lord. People talk a whole lot about Jesus today, but it's just so much lip-service - as sweet as sugar - but not one word of their lives glorifies Christ in any way, shape or form. Everything they do and every thought they have usurps the glory of God! The increase of religious activity at the end of the age is positively frightening to me. False religion is certainly in abundance already....

***9 And when ye shall hear of wars and tumults, be not terrified: for these things must needs come to pass first; but the end is not immediately.***

***10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;***

~ Certainly, pacifism has grown beyond remedy in our modern age. Rumors of war are not the end of the age, but those rumors will probably intensify beyond comprehension in those last days. And Jesus saith, "when they say peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them." We are in a far advanced state of civilization at this time. Wars identify our entire world presently. From North Korea to China to Russia to Iran and Israel and Syria and Afghanistan, wars are growing in number and scale. Flip to the Saturday editorials in any Metropolitan newspaper regarding religion and look at all the false prophets and false religions running rampant. War produces a fresh crop of weirdo's who dub themselves prophets and they are everywhere right now – I mean everywhere. There hasn't been a century since Christ was on this earth that wars have not been raging. Earthquakes are another feature of the end of the age that will likely intensify exponentially....

***11 and there shall be great earthquakes, and in divers places famines and pestilences; and there shall be terrors and great signs from heaven.***

***12 But before all these things, they shall lay their hands on you, and shall persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my name's sake.***

***13 It shall turn out unto you for a testimony.***

~ The Lord Jesus is speaking to the nation Israel in this passage, friends. The only application of this saying that can possibly be made is to Israel. Of course, Christians are persecuted later in history - but that's something altogether different. The Lord Jesus made it clear that if we follow Him, the world will hate us because the world hated Him first - and still does! You won't win a popularity contest furthering the cause of Christ and spreading the Gospel of His death, burial and resurrection while teaching Holy Writ properly, correctly and completely in the sound doctrine of the apostles.

Fame and acceptance aren't going to happen under those circumstances – I can promise you that....

***14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate beforehand how to answer:***

***15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to withstand or to gainsay.***

***16 But ye shall be delivered up even by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends; and [some] of you shall they cause to be put to death.***

***17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.***

***18 And not a hair of your head shall perish.***

***19 In your patience ye shall win your souls.***

~ This speaks specifically to the one hundred forty-four thousand Jews in Revelation who are sealed during the time of the Great Tribulation. There is no way to truthfully make the statement that this has been true thus far. The ovens in Germany testify that millions were put to death; but the suffering of those who are sealed in the Great Tribulation period will make the Nazi's look like a home economics cake baking class. God says He doesn't lose a single one of them, either, by the way....

***20 But when ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that her desolation is at hand.***

~ Remember, the question asked by the apostles was: when shall these things be, that one stone is not left upon another. That's what Jesus is answering and expounding on in this section of Scripture. Of course, the answer is now fulfilled prophecy recorded in secular history - which happened in 70 AD when Titus the Roman went through Jerusalem and literally crushed it. That was a 'miniature' example of what will happen in the last days. Some of the people who heard Jesus say these things also

saw Titus come to town; and that wasn't a good day for them. This is a warning from Jesus for the disciples to get out of Jerusalem because what was going to happen would be fearful and dreadful.

Josephus tells us all about this as he describes mothers eating their own children and the dead being thrown over the walls of Jerusalem. It's not a pretty picture to look at by any means; and this is the picture of the last days. If you don't think this could happen today, then read my next statement very carefully: it already happened once - and it's now a matter of history. The Lord Jesus said it was going to happen and it did happen. Christ says it's going to happen again - and guess what - I believe Him! The way things are moving today it looks as though He may be more correct than ever. When Christ returns, I believe all mankind will have an epiphany of how accurate the Bible is - even those who are totally and completely ignorant of it. Titus sent Israel into a severe slavery and bondage that made Egypt seem like child's play. This is all a matter of history. Mostly they were taken in forced labor to build the great Coliseum in Rome....

***21 Then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains; and let them that are in the midst of her depart out; and let not them that are in the country enter therein.***

***22 For these are days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.***

***23 Woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days! for there shall be great distress upon the land, and wrath unto this people.***

***24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.***

~ I wouldn't have you miss this for anything in the world. For two thousand plus years since Titus entered Jerusalem, they have never been able to get the Gentile out! Gentiles have controlled the city from the day we're studying on down to the right now; and try as they may, they cannot get

the Gentiles out. It just isn't going to happen. The Jew in Jerusalem is digging down at the Wailing Wall instead of building up. You cannot miss this or forget it, friends. The Temple Mount is where the Mosque of Omar stands as I type this report and as you read it. The Lord Jesus said it would be this way until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, which hasn't happened. The Word of God just happens to be deadly accurate! This is also a very interesting secular history study. It would be worthwhile and edifying, to a certain degree, to execute on your own. Just don't get too absorbed in it....

***25 And there shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows;***

~ This speaks to the last days immediately preceding the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His Kingdom. This speaks of the way it will be IN THAT DAY – NOT today! Men's hearts will fail them for fear just doesn't happen to apply today. Many people are quoting all of this and giving it as a present picture but, my friends, if you think this is the end times, read very carefully: YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET! If you think we are seeing the fulfillment of this verse today, you just happen to be entirely wrong! Wait until Cocoa Beach washes up blood onto sands full of deadly insects. Isn't happening. Hasn't happened. This is a little bit more than what we are seeing today, you may be sure. It's bad today – yes – but not like the days the world will see after the rapture of the church. Things happen so fast that all of this could occur before I finish typing this paragraph....

***26 men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.***

***27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.***

***28 But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads; because your redemption draweth nigh.***

~ All of these things must happen, by the way; so, it's impossible that we are in that time frame; but if you want to bring in a verse that could be

made applicable today, I would say lift up your heads - because your redemption draweth nigh. These things COULD be happening or beginning to happen – you and I just aren't in a position to know, friends. We haven't been given that information in the Word of God; and a reckless, strung-out theory of dark verses doesn't matter or make it so, either, by the way. We can say our salvation and redemption is nearer than when we first believed – but that's as far as we can go. The Lord Jesus promised He was going to take His church out of the world before these terrible and horrible things happen; do you believe the Bible? ~

***29 And he spake to them a parable: Behold the fig tree, and all the trees:***

***30 when they now shoot forth, ye see it and know of your own selves that the summer is now nigh.***

***31 Even so ye also, when ye see these things coming to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh.***

***32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all things be accomplished.***

***33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.***

***34 But take heed to yourselves, lest haply your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you suddenly as a snare:***

***35 for [so] shall it come upon all them that dwell on the face of all the earth.***

***36 But watch ye at every season, making supplication, that ye may prevail to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.***

***37 And every day he was teaching in the temple; and every night he went out, and lodged in the mount that is called Olivet.***



***38 And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, to hear him.***

~ Our Spiritual Safari maintains that the fig tree speaks of the nation Israel. Israel has always been a sign to this earth. God keeps His clock, calendar and vehicle for communication to the world open through the nation Israel. Notice how all of this is summed up with a warning to “take heed” lest all sorts of bad things that may happen – and those bad things are precisely what DOES happen to the crowd that gets bent on end time prophecy. We need to keep our guard up in these days that we are alive to live for God. Christians are not called to reform the world – that’s God’s business! God only asks us to allow His Holy Spirit to live through us and for us to further the cause of Christ by taking His Word to the entire world. By His grace and with your help that’s what I plan to do. How are we going to be worthy? We cannot make ourselves worthy; the only way I’m ever going to be worthy is in Christ! That means I am going to have to trust Him and commit my ways to Him. I wish I could have been there in the temple that morning to hear Him teaching ~

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