

Sermon Notes – June 10, 2018

End-Times Foci

Luke 21:5-19

Pastor Jeff Hinds

Our Mission: *Helping people take the next step in one's relationship with Jesus Christ.*

Our Vision Statement:

Connect: *Connect through authentic community with other Christ-followers; **Grow:** Grow in one's personal relationship with Jesus;*

Go: *Go and serve others sharing love and the gospel.*

As Christ-followers, we are to long for Christ's imminent ("at any moment") return. As we wait His return (and the Rapture for all Christ-followers who are still on earth), we are called to these four things in Luke 21:5-19:

1. Focus on Truth: Jesus predicts that the closer we move towards His return (Rapture), the more that "false teachers" will arise (Luke 21:7-8). We need to be like the "Bereans" who compared what is taught (by Bible teachers, in books, by pastors, etc.) to what the Bible actually teaches (Acts 17:11). The Bible is to be our standard of authority.
2. Focus on Courage in Christ (Luke 21:9-11): The "end-times" (the time since Jesus ascended in Acts 1:11) will be accompanied by increases in war, natural disasters, and even cosmic events. However, rather than living in fear, Christ-followers are to live with confidence knowing that "God has it all under His control." Our world is out-of-control, but God is sovereignly in control at all times.
3. Focus on Ministry (Luke 21:12-18): Christ-followers are to focus on Kingdom endeavors more than earthly circumstances—even difficult circumstances.
4. Focus on Perseverance (Luke 21:19): Christ-followers, empowered by God's Spirit, validate our faith through good works (1 John 2:19). We can never earn our salvation—which is only through faith in Christ and the grace He offers by dying for our sins—but, having been saved by faith, we seek to live out our faith for His glory (sanctification process).