

Episode: Luke Series No. 18

Narrator: Andrew

Primary Scriptures: Luke 19:28-48, 20, 21

Story Summary: Last week of Jesus' life

Location: Jerusalem

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Luke 19:43-44, 20:17, 20:25, 21:3-4, 21:6, 21:17-19

In order to get a fuller picture of the last week of Jesus' life, you have to read all four Gospels, where each writer emphasizes different events and details. One of Luke's special points was the opposition of the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders to the ministry of Jesus.

In Luke's account, Jesus knew the physical manifestation of the Jewish leaders' emphasis, the Temple, would soon come to an end. The Temple, built by Herod, was a magnificent building, but Jesus knew that it would be demolished in about forty more years.

Jesus also knew the spiritual manifestation of the Jewish leaders' emphasis, ritual and rule-following, would soon come to an end. Without the Temple, many of their religious rites would automatically disappear. While their emphasis on man-made rules might not disappear, it would be shown to be useless.

The story of the widow's mites (small coins) is well-known. As you think of the story, consider that Jesus' mother was a widow. Jesus would have known the sacrifice the woman made. He must have already been thinking about his mother and what would happen to her after his death. Imagine the other details of life that Jesus must have considered as he faced his impending death. Like all of us, he surely felt he had more to do than time in which to do it.

As you read the different Gospel accounts of the last week of Jesus' life, you have to be struck with his desperate efforts to teach his enemies as well as his friends. Jesus so badly wants to help everyone that he uses his precious time to convince everyone of his truth. However, with time running out, he talks with his followers about the future times and gives them his parting teachings and encouragements. He never sugarcoats their impending trials, but he does let them know that he won't be victorious in the future...he is already victorious!

Discussion Questions:

1. Many thousands of people probably saw Jesus come over the Mount of Olives as he made his Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Why might they have thought Jesus could be the Messiah?
 2. Why didn't the Jewish officials just kill Jesus as they wanted to do?
 3. When Jesus asked the Pharisees to show him a denarius, what did he trick them into doing?
 4. What are some things that you can learn from Jesus' discussion of the resurrection in Luke 20?
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1. People were reciting Psalms about him, he was riding a donkey (the sign of royalty), people were celebrating as if he was the Messiah. 2. They did not have authority from the Romans to do so, they were afraid of the opinion of the people. 3. Proving that they owned Roman money with a graven image on it. The fact that they owned a Roman coin betrayed their hypocrisy. 4. There will be a resurrection, those who are resurrected won't die or get married.

Application Questions:

1. The Jewish leaders thought the Temple was a sign of God's favor toward them. Do you have anything in your life that you think makes you special?
2. In the Parable of the Tenants, Jesus showed that many people try to take advantage of God's goodness and mercy. Can you name a time when you took advantage of someone? Or when you tried to take advantage of God?
3. In the story of the widow's offering, Jesus is clear that God values money differently than most people. What do you have that you can offer to God that is valuable to you, but is not money? Are you willing to happily give that to God?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. Have you ever felt left out the way Andrew probably felt? He was an apostle of Jesus, but his three best friends were obviously more special than him, especially his brother, Peter. Do you suppose Jesus ever talked to Andrew about his situation? If you ever feel left out, do you concentrate on what you don't have, or what you do have?
2. The Pharisees very much valued the Temple and their rituals, but Jesus knew those things would soon go away. What do you value that may not have much value in the future?
3. Almost everyone wants to be better looking and more popular, not matter how old they are. Why is putting too much value on good looks or popularity a dangerous thing to do?