

Jesus and the Second Temple

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **October 13, 2024**



Over the last few weeks, Pastor Allen has asked us to spend additional time in our Bibles reading the Gospel of Luke. In this session, we focus on Jesus' activity in the Second Temple—the center of national life and pride in first-century Jerusalem. The last days of Jesus' ministry and conflict was centered almost exclusively in the Jewish Temple. Luke's narrative faithfully records Jesus' birth and redemptive work, but he also writes about the opportunities Jesus, the Messiah, extended to the people as He walked among them. **Luke tells us a timeless story while unfolding the account of what happens when we ignore God's truth.** The people to whom Jesus spoke and ministered—from the synagogues to the Temple—had a choice. Because of their choices, their lives took a dramatic turn. Jesus had warned them throughout Luke's Gospel that there would be an interruption of their life patterns. Similarly, we are at a crossroads, and our future is probably not going to look like our past. We do not yet know the outcomes, but our future has far more to do with the people of God—our hearts and our choices—than any other factor. The question is, will we choose to follow Jesus, even when it's difficult, or go our own way?

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9–10

*** How does being chosen by God and grafted into His promises make you feel? How does this promise encourage you?**

THE SECOND TEMPLE

LUKE 2:45–50 *When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days **they found him in the temple courts**, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." ⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.*

LUKE 4:9–12 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ¹² Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

LUKE 19:41–44 *As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."*

***Share a time when you faced a negative consequence for your actions. How did it help you make better choices moving forward?**

LUKE 19:45–48 *Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling. ⁴⁶ "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be a house of prayer'; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" ⁴⁷ Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. ⁴⁸ Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.*

At Passover, God required every Jewish family to sacrifice a lamb, and most had to buy an animal for that sacrifice. So, Jesus' anger wasn't about an exchange of money; it was because God's people were being extorted by the merchants selling the animals. They made significant profits off the Jewish people, who were simply trying to fulfill their religious duties.

***What are some appropriate (and even necessary) uses of anger in the Christian life? How can we embody righteous anger, while guarding against sinful anger?**

LUKE 20:1–8 *One day as he was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. ² “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”*

³ *He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me, ⁴ John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or from men?” ⁵ They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ ⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.” ⁷ So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”*

⁸ *Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”*

LUKE 21:1–4 *As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ “I tell you the truth,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”*

*** What are some ways you can help others grow in their faith?**

LUKE 21:5–6 *Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶ “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”*

LUKE 21:37–38 *Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, ³⁸ and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.*

LUKE 22:52–53 *Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”*

LUKE 23:44–46 *It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.*

*** When you feel rejected, how do you tend to respond? How does knowing Jesus has been rejected give you strength?**

LUKE 24:50–53 *When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*

***Have the courage this week to ask the Lord if there is anything in you that separates you from God’s grace. If and when the Lord reveals something to you, how will you choose to respond?**

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your great love and provision on our behalf—that You sent Your Son, and He offered Himself as a sacrifice so we might be included in Your people. We choose to humble ourselves and to ask forgiveness for any attitude, thought, or behavior that would separate us from Your best. Forgive us for when we've made excuses, been indifferent, willfully ignored You, or turned away from You. We now turn our faces and hearts to You so we might walk uprightly before You in holiness, purity, and righteousness. We declare we are willing to identify with You and bear Your name wherever and whenever there is opportunity. We choose to stand for Your principles and use our voices and strength so the name of Jesus will be exalted and Your Kingdom extended. We ask for Your wisdom to make the choices that would result in Your blessings being extended to the generations who follow us. Look upon us with grace and mercy and, once again, pour out Your blessings upon us. In Jesus' name, amen.