**Watch Yourselves​**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Luke 21:1-38

“Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

(Luke 21:32-36, ESV)

**Introduction**

That many today deny and disbelieve the future Second Coming of Christ is nothing new. Such unbelief has continued at least since 70 A.D. when Jerusalem and Herod’s Temple were destroyed as Christ foretold. Peter summed up pretty well what those who disbelieved Christ’s promised return had already been saying in his day: “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation” (2Peter 3:4, ESV). Let’s take a closer look at what else Christ said would happen in the future and consider whether or not we should watch ourselves, too.

**1. The offering of the poor widow and her faith in the provision of God. (Luke 20:45-21:4)**

 a) Reading Luke 20:27 through 21:36 may provide a better sense of the flow of events.

 b) God knows the stars, the number of hairs on your head and the pennies in your pocket.

**2. The not-so-good news of having rejected Christ. (Luke 21:5-24)**

 a) Christ foretells the destruction of Jerusalem and Herod’s temple.

 b) He foretold not just manmade and natural disasters, but the betrayal and persecution of believers.

**3. Signs to come in the sun, moon, stars and hearts of mankind. (Luke 21:25-38)**

 a) Christ foretells His second coming.

 b) Watching the signs and, more importantly, watching our hearts.

**Conclusion**

From our historical vantage point some 1990 years after Christ spoke these words, it seems that not only have there been numerous earthquakes, famines, seasons of persecution, plagues and wars, but there have also been a number of times when the Church thought they were living through the last days because of an antichrist figure. While I can empathize with some who doubt or disbelieve Christ’s promised return because of these false alarms, however, the promiser and fulfiller of these prophecies said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away” (Luke 21:33, ESV). Are you watching the signs of the times as well as the condition of your heart for Christ’s return, or have you chosen to disbelieve?

**For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

1) Read Luke 20:34-21:4. Why do you think the Holy Spirit had Luke include the poor widow’s story here?

2) Read Luke 21:10-36. What will happen before Christ’s return and how should you and I prepare?

3) What are the Word and Spirit of God showing and telling you about the Person and Message of Christ?

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