



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of December 10, 2017

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Luke 21:25-35 “Jesus, Our Judge”

Think about a specific person in your life that you often judge.

- What are the ways you judge them?
- What does judging them do for you?
- How does judging them reveal a small view of God as the Judge? A small view of your sin?

Read Luke 21:25-27, “²⁵ And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

- What event is described in these verses?
- How will the Son of Man arrive?
- How will believers greet the Son of Man? Why?
- Do Jesus words challenge or encourage you?

Read Luke 21:28-33, “²⁹ And he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’”

- In Luke 21:7 the disciples asked Jesus, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” How does the fig tree answer their question?
- What promises does Jesus make to His disciples?
- How might the disciples respond to these promises?

Read Luke 21:34-35, “³⁴ 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. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.”

- What temptations will Jesus’ disciples face?
- What temptations do you face as you grow weary waiting for Jesus to come again?

WEPC is taking a break from *Numbers* for the season of Advent, but *Worship Study Guides* will continue to be published each Sunday:

- Dec 17: Jesus, Our Scandal (Matthew 11:2-11)
- Dec 24: Jesus, Our Sacrifice (John 1:19-29)
- Dec 31: Resume the Book of Numbers

Questions about this week’s study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Luke 21:25-35](#).

- What is the point of Advent?
- Have you decked your halls, but not your hearts?
- “There are theological reasons for observing a serious Advent without being swallowed up prematurely by the Christmas rush. Advent offers an unparalleled opportunity to take a fearless inventory of the darkness in our world and in our hearts, into which the True Light will come.” (*Fleming Rutledge*)
- Our text today, the very words of Jesus, tell us to “watch ourselves”.
- After this challenge, Jesus says this to us, “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 21:36](#)). The [King James Version](#) translates this verse this way, “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
- Sometimes I think we believe the warnings of Jesus are for someone else.
- “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.” ([1 Corinthians 11:27-31](#))
- “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, “You will become free”?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.’” They answered him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did.’ They said to him, ‘We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.’” ([John 8:31-47](#))
- So how do I get worthy? By confessing that we are not worthy.
- We must all remember that the basis of judgment is works. The question is, whose works?