

Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem
Luke 19:28–21:38

Memory Verse: *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away"*
(Luke 21:33 ESV).

Background Helps

At last Jerusalem! Since Luke 9:51, Dr. Luke has been building a sense of anticipation for Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, where the final scenes of his ministry on earth will take place. In Luke 19:28-44 we find his triumphal entry into the city recorded. For these last four weeks of our study in the Gospel of Luke, we will trace the events of Passion Week in Jerusalem. (In fact, Luke mentions the city of Jerusalem by name far more often than any other Gospel writer.)

Lesson Helps

- Review: Before beginning your study of Passion Week, it might be good to conduct a review of the previous material. For example, list some of the important events in chapters 1–19 and ask your students to list them in chronological order. Or, list a series of events from Christ's life taken from *all four* gospels and ask your students to identify the ones found *only in Luke* (a harmony of the Gospels will be helpful here). Or, ask your students to come up with their own list of the unique emphases of Luke's Gospel. (Or, come up with your own review idea!)

- The passages in this week's readings include three main themes:
 1. Jesus' triumphal entry (19:28-48)
 2. Jesus' controversies with his enemies (Luke 20)
 3. The Olivet Discourse concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the second coming of our Lord (Luke 21:5-36)

If you choose the second theme, you could emphasize *how* Christ handled controversy in order to help your students know how they too can face opposition and handle controversial questions. Or, you could study one or more of the controversial issues themselves, perhaps using small groups. Consider raising one or more of today's controversial issues for discussion: abortion, homosexuality, etc. and discuss how Christians can best handle these controversies today.

A study of the Olivet Discourse (Luke 21) would also make for an interesting class. In this Gospel, Luke often includes teaching on Christ's return (e.g., Luke 12:35-48; 17:20-37; 19:11-27). If you have not dealt with this theme before, now may be a good time. The Olivet Discourse presents challenges in interpretation: Which verses refer to the destruction of Jerusalem and which to the second coming, or both? Let your class wrestle with this issue. Avoid dogmatism! Many sincere Bible interpreters have come to differing conclusions on this question. Bottom line: Notice the many practical exhortations given in the light of Christ's coming, and challenge your students to be ready for his return.

Home Assignment:



Read Luke 22:1-65.



Memorize Luke 22:42.