

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #83

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 21:34-38

Sermon Date: May 6, 2007

Warning: Too Many Warnings Overwhelm Us!

How do you respond to the various warnings you receive? Which ones do you heed, and which ones do you blow off? For example, which of the following types of warnings would cause you to respond?

- ☞ Virus alert! Download new software now!
- ☞ Global warming trends continue!
- ☞ Terrorist threat level raised to RED!
- ☞ Deadly mosquitoes found on South Shore!
- ☞ You are paying too much for car insurance!
- ☞ Slippery when wet!
- ☞ Safety recall on child car seats!

As a result of the many warnings we encounter on a daily basis, we begin to disregard warnings in general. How about God's warnings? What do we do with them?

- ☞ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation! (Mt 26:41)

In this week's study passage, Jesus warns us to guard our hearts from the world's busyness and burdens, and instead to stay focused on His Father's priorities. How will you respond?

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."</p> <p>³⁷ 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.</p>	

2. What is your heart weighed down by these days? How might these concerns and burdens be diverting you from spiritual readiness?

3. Jesus knew he was about to die, which weighed heavily on his heart at times (eg. Mt 26:38). Yet Jesus spent his last days engaged in rather intensive ministry (Lk 21:37-38). Why do you think he use his last days this way? What would it look like for you, despite your own heart-weighting challenges, to engage more resolutely in responding to your God-given mission?

4. Did Luke 21:34-38 leave you wondering:

"How are we to "be careful" and "be always on the watch?"

An important principle in studying the Bible is to allow scripture to illuminate scripture. In other words, as you are trying to understand a given passage, try to be aware of other passages which address related themes, and use them collectively to gain a fuller understanding of God's truth. In doing so, we must be careful not to take the other passages out of context. However, with a little practice, you will find that following the thread of a theme, concept, person, or event as it is addressed in various places in God's Word will provide you with a richer perspective of the tapestry of meaning woven throughout the Bible.

The following pages contain passages that touch on themes related to this week's study passage or address specific ways we are to be careful and ready. Explore each of them individually, considering the point each is making and how it relates to Luke 21:34-38. Circle or highlight things you see that especially connect to the Luke passage. Look for answers to your questions, echoes of your observations, things that seem to agree or disagree with your understanding of Luke 21.

Proverbs 4:20-27

- ²⁰ My son, pay attention to what I say;
listen closely to my words.
²¹ Do not let them out of your sight,
keep them within your heart;
²² for they are life to those who find them
and health to a man's whole body.
²³ Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.
²⁴ Put away perversity from your mouth;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.
²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead,
fix your gaze directly before you.
²⁶ Make level paths for your feet
and take only ways that are firm.
²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil.

*How can I
guard my heart?*

Psalms 119:9-16

- ⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure?
By living according to your word.
¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
¹² Praise be to you, O LORD;
teach me your decrees.
¹³ With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.
¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.
¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.
¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

- ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD
is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your
heart and with all your soul and with all your
strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give
you today are to be upon your hearts.
⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about
them when you sit at home and when you
walk along the road, when you lie down and
when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on
your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your
houses and on your gates.

Mark 13:32-37

³² "No one knows about that day or hour, not
even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only
the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not
know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man
going away: He leaves his house and puts his
servants in charge, each with his assigned task,
and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not
know when the owner of the house will come
back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or
when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he
comes suddenly, do not let him find you
sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone:
'Watch!'"

*What are we to be
watching for?*

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter.

⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

How do these passages relate to Luke 21:34-38?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹ Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

5. Having explored a broad set of related passages, now go back and review Luke 21:34-38.

a. What is the main point Luke is making?

b. In the days and weeks ahead, how will you apply what you have learned and experienced during this study?