

DAILY BREAD

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1, 2010

This week's assigned reading: Luke 21 and 22.

Comments on the assigned reading:

- In the Passion Narrative, which includes both of the assigned chapters, we find a prophecy by Jesus of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (21:5-6 and 20-24). Most scholars believe that the Gospel of Luke was written after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, including the Temple, in the year 70 C.E. (Christian Era). The consensus is that it was probably written between 80 and 90 C.E.
- In these chapters we find prophecies of the Second Coming. We are instructed to be watchful and prepared for Jesus' return to earth, but not to speculate on the date when this will precisely happen. Some preachers and teachers will claim that they know this date—don't get fooled by those folks!

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. Jesus teaches us that the greatest among us are those who serve (22:24-27). What does it mean to serve in our modern context? If this refers to servant leadership, what would that kind of leadership look like? How may these principles apply to Galilee?
2. There is a tension in the New Testament in which we are to be watching and waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus without being anxious and fearful. Do you experience that tension, and if so, how do you manage it?
3. A prominent question discussed by scholars is: Why did Jesus die? Based on your reading of Luke's Gospel up through chapter 22, how would you answer that question? What is at stake in the answer to this question?

Suggestions for prayer:

- Pray for the Loaves and Fishes ministry which provides a hot meal to low income or unemployed people. A team from Galilee will take their turn at serving this Monday, and we are grateful for those who volunteer for this ministry. Especially pray for those who are struggling to feed their families as well as those who are unemployed and underemployed.
- Pray for the Education and Youth Team which meets on Tuesday. Include in your prayers the children and all learners in our congregation. We are grateful for those who have taken on this important work in the life of our congregation.
- Pray for Lutheran Social Services and the skillfully professional services they provide, including adoption, refugee resettlement, elder care, family counseling, and financial counseling.

For the blog conversation on these readings, go to:

<http://web.me.com/ronald.peterson1/FAITHnrFUTURE/Blog/Blog.html>