

SERMON NOTES

23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 28, Year C * November 16, 2025

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Malachi 4:1-6 * Psalm 98 * 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 * Luke 21:5-19

Jesus is Coming Back, Part 2

Some prophecies about a coming King. Others, a suffering servant.

Which one's the REAL Messiah?

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them." Malachi 4:1

"But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves." Malachi 4:2

Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 4:3

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction." Malachi 4:4-6

Jesus said, "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." Luke 21:8-9

Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven." Luke 21:10-11

"Before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³And so you will bear testimony to me." Luke 21:12-13

"But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict." Luke 21:14-15

"You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish." Luke 21:16-18

"Stand firm, and you will win life." Luke 21:19

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Jeremiah 23:1-6 * Psalm 46 * Colossians 1:11-20 * Luke 23:33-43

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, Home Group, or a friend

1. What is a characteristic of Jesus you admire and try to imitate?
2. What is a characteristic of Jesus you admire, but can't seem to imitate?
3. Jesus warned us: Before he comes back, people will persecute Christians. Have you ever been mistreated or mocked because of your faith? If so, tell about it.
4. Have you ever mistreated or mocked anyone because of their faith? If so, tell about it.
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for a way you're like Jesus.
 - ✦ For God to protect you from persecution and from persecuting anyone else.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.