



### Field

“5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6 "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." 7 They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" 8 And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say,

"I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them. 9 "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." 10 Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11 there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. 12 "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; 15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 You will be hated by all because of my name. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls. Lk. 21:5-19

### Thoughts

My out-of-state relatives have an interesting relationship with the Wisconsin State Capitol. On a tour, they fell in love with its beautiful architecture and art that emit a rich history. Generally, they want to see the building whenever they're in town, but they've also gotten lost driving around the capitol square (many times) to the point of claiming "I never want to see that capitol again." Among those of us who have met with legislators in the Wisconsin, Michigan or any state capitol, who doesn't have a story about losing their way inside? However, it is less humorous when your voice seems to get lost, especially when the people most directly impacted by proposed legislation have not been heard.

In Luke, the temple was the most well-known, amazing structure in Israel. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century how do we relate to Jesus' prediction and then loss of such a building and seat of religious power? I couldn't think of a Midwestern religious equivalent. But what if Jesus would speak in the same way about a state capitol as he did about the temple? That might bring us closer to imagining how he shocked individuals in 30 AD. His message repeated in 90 AD, must have addressed disappointments people had in the temple ruins. Jesus' words can seem even closer when the needs of the people and planet are not heard at the capitol, and some of our advocacy efforts crumble around us, at least for a time.

Some get lost in trying to relate the signs Jesus referred to with events today, overlooking the message about how we respond in times of destruction and persecution. The loss of the temple is a recurring event taking different forms in history, always leaving us with the challenge of where we place our faith. When centers of power fall or fail, we still have a voice. We regroup and re-strategize. But most importantly, we remember that what God has in store for us is more wondrous than any building or system. Out of that promise we re-imagine and engage in the present. Happy Monday!

### Share

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy