

Gospel reading for Sunday 17th November 2019

[Luke 21:5-19](#)

Last days for Lutheran schools.

In order to keep the last days theme featuring in our selected reading, we have skipped over a few more sections of Luke chapter 20 and 21, notably, including the widow's offering. What makes this immediately interesting, is what is NOT said, with there being absolutely no recorded response to the offering story! The chapter runs straight into the start of this week's reading at verse five without comment. It is almost as if the disciples were not paying attention. They go off on a complete tangent – perhaps something like ... *hey boss ...isn't this a great building ... just look at that stonework!*

With another fairly “heavy” reading before us, to lighten things up a bit, let's consider this paraphrase in 21st century ‘Lutheran school speak’, of what this reading may be saying to us today ...

Scene: A Lutheran school near us?

Lutheran School leader ... *"Hey isn't our school looking great (v5) ... (thanks to all that Government money)*

Jesus responds ... *but one day all of your schools (and churches) will fall apart (v6)*

... but note that this is not going to happen right away (v9)

... so don't just sit around twiddling your thumbs ... there's work to do (v12) ... you need to take every opportunity that you can to show people Jesus.

You are still my witnesses (v 13) ... I know that it is going to be tough ... but that's what my (LEA) schools are here for ... to tell my story!

... and yeah, you can expect a few knocks ... but don't give up, I'll be plugging for you (and will even give you the words to say). Stick at the job ... by hanging in there (with me) you will gain life.

... (and don't get carried away with your own self-importance and earthly achievements.)

As we celebrate the events of 2019, in humility, may we be reminded that in all things, to God be the glory!

May we be always mindful of God's ongoing presence with us but especially aware of Him speaking to us as we take time out to reflect on His Word.

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