

**The Parish Church of St. Barnabas, Swanland - 'Sharing Christ through friendship'**

**CELL GROUP NOTES: 14/11/10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent/ Remembrance. Reading: Luke 21:5-19**

<b>Welcome / icebreaker</b>	What would be your 'Desert island discs' luxury and book (as well as the Bible)?
<b>Worship ideas</b>	40 Be still for the presence; 125 Give thanks with a grateful heart; 381 Make me a channel of your peace; 664 Beauty for brokenness
<b>Word (refs.↓)</b>	<i>some suggestions for discussion here</i>
Luke 21:5-19	<p>Here Jesus is speaking in the Temple in Jerusalem, less than a week before his death. He warns his followers to '<b>watch out</b>' (vv.8,34,36), but not to worry (v.14), and to pray for deliverance (v.36). The passage falls into three sections;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the <u>disaster</u> that will befall all religious systems (vv.5-6 and 20-24),</li> <li>➤ the <u>deception</u> of false prophets and doom-mongers (vv.8-11) and</li> <li>➤ the <u>discouragement</u> that persecution can bring (vv.12-19).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>vv.5-6 (and 20-24)</u></b></p> <p>Why does Jesus pay such attention to the future destruction of the Temple and its sacrificial system (v.6, compare vv.20-24). What risks were there in speaking like this (see e.g. Mark 14:57-59)? Why is it going to happen (see eg Lk. 19:44)?</p>
<i>Optional: read Luke 20:9-19</i>	<i>How does the parable in the preceding chapter – spoken perhaps just a day or two before the predictions of this week's passage - show how Jesus hoped people would respond to his warnings about the future of the Temple, of Israel and of Judaism itself?</i>
Luke 21:7-11	How does <b>v.9</b> help us to 'filter' detailed "the end times" interpretations of passages like vv.25-28, or the latter chapters of Revelation?
Luke 21:12-19	Does this passage encourage you, depress you or leave you cold? Is persecution of Christians (present or future) in the West is a real issue? In other parts of the world? How do vv.14-15 make you feel? What about vv.16-18?
<b>Witness</b>	<p><b><u>Pray</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Did anyone get asked a question about their faith this week? Share any stories of how you responded.</li> <li>➤ Focus on people you are connected with who suffer as a result of war or persecution – either in this country (e.g. relatives of service personnel, or people dismissed because of their faith) or abroad (e.g. those living in war zones or the work of charities such as the Barnabas Fund, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Christians Against Torture, AI, etc.).</li> <li>➤ Pray for them as specifically as you can and find some way of practical action to assure them of your prayers (e.g. writing to prisoners of conscience, getting more information about one such cause, registering for email updates, etc)</li> <li>➤ Consider whether you could commit as individuals or a group to prayer and/or action here on a regular basis.</li> </ul> <p><i>(If time after praying) <b>Plan</b> – discuss plans re. / progress on arranging a Christmas social for your group/ cluster, or to invite people to the <u>Christmas Creativity</u> night on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>)</i></p>
<b>Reminder:</b>	<p><b><i>NB There is no 'Gathering' this week (due to a clash with a Diocesan meeting). But</i></b> - on <b><u>Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup></u></b> there is an 'open' Monday Cluster meeting in church to meet Ann Fursdon (on leave from her work with AIM-Chad). Why not also invite her to lunch/supper, or to next week's group? Also on <b><u>Tues. 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b> there is a meeting in church for group leaders/ co-leaders – please allow them to come!</p>