

## Matthew 24-26:5

### Tuesday Part 3/Wed: The Coming Kingdom

#### Matthew 24 – End Time Events

##### Main Points

- Temple will be destroyed.
- People will claim to be the Messiah. Wars, rumors of wars, famine and earthquakes will increase.
- Persecution will come.
- The “abomination of desolations” (anti-Christ...Daniel 9:27) will stand in the temple. RUN! Persecution unlike any other time will come upon believers. More false Messiahs and prophets will perform many signs and wonders and deceive many. Everyone will see Jesus’ return.
- Jesus will return in glorious fashion. Gather the elect from the earth.
- These are the signs to watch for: wars, famine, earthquakes, extreme persecution, the anti-Christ.
- No one can or should try to predict the end...if any claims to know they are a liar. The rapture will come quickly and unknowingly.
- Be found faithful on that day. Die serving the Lord. Be raptured serving the Lord. Anyone not saved will be casted into the lake of fire with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

##### Reflection

At some point all of what we know of this world will come to an end. America is temporary. Sports are temporary. Companies are temporary. Money, fame, vacations, parks, oceans, mountains, the moon, stars...it’s all temporary. How everything will come to an end has intrigued mankind for generations. The book of Revelation is one of the most questioned and studied books in Scripture. The End Times has also become a major source of false prophecies. If anyone claims to have “insider information” about the End Times, they are false. Yet, for almost 2,000 years people claiming to be prophets have predicted the exact time of the End Times.

Jesus goes through many different events that will take place as the end draws near. At first all of this could cause one to feel anxious, curious, scared, excited or nervous. Discussing things coming to an end and people being thrown into the lake of fire while others being ushered into a new earth and new heaven should stir one’s emotions. The main point to keep in mind is that Jesus will be glorified and all His people will be safe and secure in His hands as we enter into eternity.

##### Application

So, how should we respond? When studying and meditating upon Scriptures that cover the end times, pray that it stirs a greater desire within you to worship and make disciples. Our time is short. Everyone will stand before the judge. Our only hope is Jesus. If you would like to read more about the End Times don’t just read the book of Revelation. Read Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Revelation. Really you just need to read the entire Bible.

##### Discussion Questions

- If we know that everything will come to an end...why do we waste so much time investing in the temporary things of the world?
- How can studying the End Times strengthen your faith?
- When studying the End Times...why is it important to consider the whole of Scripture?
- How do the End Time events point us to the hope we have in Christ?

## Matthew 25 – Jesus will Return

### Reflection

We are not guaranteed tomorrow. The day is coming in which everyone that has ever existed will stand before the throne of God. You can't hide from it, delay it or escape it. Your "good" deeds will have zero impact on your eternal destination. The only thing that will impact your eternity is your response to the gospel; are you in Christ or not.

### Application

Believe the gospel. Proclaim the gospel. For tomorrow may never come. Don't delay sharing with your family, friends, neighbors or strangers.

### Discussion Questions

- We are not guaranteed tomorrow. How do we make the most of today for God's glory?
- Why is it beneficial to remember that everyone will stand before God one day?
- Who do you plan on sharing the gospel with this week?

## Matthew 26:1-5 – Christ Crucified

### Reflection

Jesus was committed to His mission: *"to save His people from their sins"* (Matt. 1:21 CSB). Jesus was the perfect Passover Lamb that would redeem His people. After three years Jesus is about to fulfill the prophesy given in Matthew 1:21-23.

### Application

Jesus had a unique mission and calling that only He could fulfill. He was the Son of God that would become the sacrificial lamb that would save His people from their sins. To accomplish His mission...He was called to the cross.

We, as believers, all have a mission and calling given to us by God as well. Mission: we all share the same mission...make disciples of all nations. Calling: we all have a unique calling...when, where & how to make disciples of all nations.

### Discussion Questions

- How did Jesus being crucified enable you to fulfill your mission and calling?
- What can hold us back or distract us from fulfilling our mission?
- What can strengthen or encourage us to fulfill our mission?
- Why is it important to remember that each believer has a unique calling?