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Matthew 24:1-15
2/20/24

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of a time or way we can get distracted by how things look on the outside spiritually like the disciples were by the temple?
 2. Disciples ask questions. Do you ask Jesus questions? Why or why not?
 3. What is important for us to remember when considering future difficulties? See v. 13.
 4. How can you or do you guard your heart from growing cold?
 5. What do you think is an important take away from this teaching?
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Teaching Notes:

Jesus taught from the Mount of Olives to His disciples.

24:1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

The phrase “**went out and departed**” is a very emphatic sentence structure in the Greek language.

“There is an emphasis on the idea of the verb. He was going away, like one who did not mean to return.” Bruce

Jesus has rebuked the religious leaders with 8 woes and...

...He has looked out over Jerusalem and wept lamenting...

23:37-38 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’”

Notice this sentence...“Your house is left to you desolate.”

It is reminiscent of when Ezekiel saw the glory of God leave the temple before the judgment of God on the nation for their sin.

After this week of His passion, the temple will be obsolete...

...it will be a building with activity lacking any true divinity.

But Jesus turned His back on it because inside it was dead.

It was a den of thieves.

2 And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

Was it the stones on the outside or the sin on the inside?

The Romans fought and defeated the Jews in 70 AD.
The Temple was burned some say accidentally by a soldier.

The fire melted the gold in the temple and the Romans took the stones apart one by one to get the gold out of the cracks.

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

When will these things be...ie. the temple be destroyed?
What will be the sign of Jesus' coming?

Disciples ask questions...disciples learn and grow.

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

The first of 12 imperatives...actions Jesus gives them to do.

But why would you be deceived?

5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Before the temple is destroyed...

There will be people claiming to be the Christ...many will follow.
There will also be wars and rumors of wars.

Liars and deceivers and wars are part of the process.
It is not the end yet. Don't worry about that stuff.

Prophecy can be like mountain peaks look close together but are miles apart.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

These are like birth pangs...

...the contractions let you know the baby is coming.

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

So these things happened before 70 AD AND after.

- Disciples were immediately persecuted and killed.
- James, Stephen, Paul, Peter, John all persecuted.
- Many were offended as Paul and Peter shared the gospel.

There were waves of persecution under Rome from Nero to Domitian, Marcus Aurelius, and Diocletian.

There was a famine in Acts 11:28.

Major earthquakes were in Antioch in 37 and 42, Phrygia in 61 AD and Pompeii in 63 AD.

These are the labor pains, the beginning of sorrows.

12 And because **lawlessness** will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

“Living in iniquity from ignorance or violation of the Law.”

It is the sin of the church not the sin of the world that causes the most problems for the cause of Christ.

We see compromise here and think it doesn't matter.
And what happens? Our hearts grow cold.

So what must be done? Then and now it is the same...**endure.**

13 **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

Then Jesus seems to change gears...

14 **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

We are called to preach the gospel...

...But He is not saying **if then**, He is saying **it will be**.

Jesus may be referring to this time at the end...

Revelation 14:6 **Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— 7saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”**

Let's look at this next section...

15 **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**

There are many different views on this section...two basic views:

One says it has already happened...One says it has not yet.

Something grossly offensive leaving the place desolate.

At the time of Daniel it was predicted and later prefigured by a horrible man named Antiochus Epiphanes.

He desecrated the temple by killing a pig, setting up idols, and making the priests drink the pig's blood.

The Jews fought against and defeated him...Hanukkah.

But at the time of Jesus this was in the past.

So Jesus is saying something has not yet happened but will.