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Matthew 24:15-51
2/28/24

Discussion Questions:

1. The Jews were warned to flee, and there are times we need to flee. What mindset do we need to be able to “run” in obedience to avoid judgment or sin or the flesh or things of the world?
 2. What might help us from being fooled by false miracles or real signs of a false messiah?
 3. How do we stay watchful and guard against spiritually falling asleep?
 4. Based on v. 45-47, how can we be blessed as we wait for Jesus?
 5. What are your thoughts about Jesus second coming? How has this study
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Teaching Notes:

Let's pick it up in v.15

24:15 “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.

What did Daniel the prophet say?

12:11 *And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be 1,290 days until the end.*

Paul also seems to refer to this abomination...

II Thessalonians 2: 1Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of [a]Christ had come. 3Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

When the Jews see this happening, what should they do? Run!

17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

This is another reason we think the abomination is future...

...a great tribulation not since the beginning of the world? Not yet.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

The word elect is interesting here...

It means those who are chosen...Jews or Christians?
Either way, there is mercy in the shortening of the tribulation.

So in the time of tribulation...

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe *it*. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Jesus will return. Just as He and the angels promised.

But there will be liars and deceivers. That is who Satan is!

Jesus says, "I am telling you ahead of time, don't be fooled!"

26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; *or* 'Look, He *is* in the inner rooms!' do not believe *it*. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Jesus will not come in secretly this time born in a stable w/ a star.

Guzik says, "*Parousia* ('coming') is used only in this chapter in the Gospels. In the Epistles it is used several times of Jesus' return."

28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. (Also could be vultures)

This is likely an allusion to the judgment that He will bring.

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

These are cosmic occurrences that signal Christ's return.

The rapture which Paul mentions in I Thessalonians 4:13...
...could come at any time.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

What is the “sign”? The cross? Or the Son of Man is the sign?

There will be angels and trumpets and they will gather everyone all those who are chosen to be with Him forever.

32 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! 34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

The fig tree is a type or figure for Israel.

When you see all these things...what things?

Abomination of desolation, Tribulation, cosmic events.

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Trying to pick a day is a clear and utter mistake.

37 But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

So this gives us a picture that life will be pretty typical.

40 Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

Some think this is about the rapture, maybe.

It seems to speak more of judgment...people taken in judgment.

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

So because no one knows when...

...**Watch, be ready. Pay attention...**

But there seems to be a dilemma...

Is the coming known from Daniel 1290 days or is it unknown like a thief?

Is it life as usual or tribulation like the world has never seen?

Is it an unknown hour or a clear coming event?

There is the suggestion that there are two second comings.

Then comes a parable and illustration...

45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Jesus gives guidance on what it looks like to be faithful and wise.

Know who you are and know what you are supposed to be doing.

47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

The evil servant knows he has a master & knows he has a job...

...but he thinks he has got time to do what he wants.

49 and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

He thinks there is no coming judgment.

The fear of the Lord is to depart from evil.

50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The judgment here is for the hypocrites, evil servants.

Those like the religious leaders playing a game.