

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 24:1-28” on August 12 & 15, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 23:25-39 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 23:25-39

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 24:1-25 Having challenged the religious leaders in the temple with the series of woes that exposed their hypocritical attitudes, Jesus now moves outside the temple walls to the Mount of Olives where He speaks privately with His disciples concerning the future. Jesus was preparing His disciples for what would happen in their generation and beyond, and His words prompted questions from the disciples: “What about us? When will the temple be destroyed? When will You come back to rescue us?”

DROPPING THE BOMB: This beautiful temple would be destroyed in THEIR generation! The Jews saw the temple as their 'safe' place, the foundation of their faith – how could this be? Only Jesus is our safe place! In preparation for studying Jesus' words about the destruction of the temple and His Second Coming, read the parallel passages in Mark 13 and Luke 21.

- Having perused Matthew's, Mark's, and Luke's description of Jesus' teaching on the Mount of Olives, how do you think you might have responded as a disciple? What questions might you have asked?
- How do all of these teachings affect you TODAY as you consider your future in following Him?
- What activity/purpose/cause is taking most of your focus into right now?
- What 'bombs' need to be dropped in our lives today to point us to Jesus as the only safe place? What is our 'Jerusalem,' our 'temple'?

JESUS' WARNINGS: In Matthew 24:4-5, Jesus warns His disciples about watching that no one deceived them, for many would come in His name and claiming to be the Christ. Jesus wanted His disciples to be prepared and not led astray or be deceived by false messiahs.

- What false messiahs do you see in the world we live in, and what is their message?
- How could you encourage those around you to guard against being deceived and to prepare for Jesus' coming?
- Prophecy shows us how to be faithful in the present, allowing us to know what is coming as we prepare for the Lord's coming; what specific things should we be praying for in our personal lives and in our times to grow and sustain that faithfulness?
- Luke 21:20 speaks of Jerusalem being surrounded by armies – a warning that desolation is near. What things are surrounding us, and how should we respond?
- Are there places in your world you think that because you honor them, you are safe? What do Jesus' words in these passages reveal to you about those places?

OUR PURPOSE: Are we too consumed with our own agendas or with what is coming in the future that we miss our purpose in the moment?

- In what areas of our lives are we constantly fighting the physical, distracting us from our purpose?
- Our purpose is to love, serving Him and the people around us to help them be ready for Jesus' coming; what will you do differently this week to live out that purpose??

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

PRAY for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.