

## JESUS FINAL WEEK – THINGS TO COME

- we have been looking at the event of the final week in the life of Jesus that will lead up to His crucifixion and resurrection
- Jesus had been ministering now for a little over 3 years, and is now making His final trip into Jerusalem
- He had been telling His disciples for the last few weeks what was awaiting Him at Jerusalem
- on the first day of week, the day we traditionally refer to as Palm Sunday, Jesus made His triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem
- the next day, which would have been Monday, Jesus returned to the city
  - as Jesus came back the next day, He was hungry, and noticed a fig tree
  - He approached the tree because He saw that it had leaves, which is an indication that there should've also had fruit
    - upon closer examination, He found no fruit, so He cursed the tree
  - While in the city Jesus came into the Temple area and cleaned house in fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy, [Malachi 3:1-3](#).
  - Jesus left after this and spent the night in Bethany
- the next day, the third day, which would have been Tuesday
  - Peter commented on fig tree which was dried up from the roots
  - Jesus used the opportunity of the withered tree to teach about having faith in God and the importance of forgiveness, especially when we pray
    - we can't harbor bitterness and unforgiveness and expect God to answer our prayers
  - then began a series of questions and confrontations with the religious leaders
    - they asked Jesus who gave Him the authority to do and say what He was doing and saying
      - Before we are quick to judge these religious guys, how often does that same question arise when the Lord speaks to us about something in our life?
      - Jesus answered their question with a question of His own
    - Then Jesus told them a story about a special vineyard, and they released that it was intended for them, and they sought to arrest Him at that time, but were afraid of how the crowd would have reacted
      - Lesson = How often do we know what the Bible says but fail to understand how it applies to us?
    - The Pharisees: Is it lawful?

- always the question of legalism
- The Sadducees: What about the Resurrection
  - there seems to be a growing number of people who call themselves believers but have questions about the Resurrection
  - He then corrected them, as He often does us by asking them if they had not read in the Scriptures
- The Scribes: What is the greatest commandment?
- Jesus then turns the table and asks them a question
- Jesus then turned the situation into a teachable moment
  - Beware of those who preach one thing but don't live what they preach
  - Giving to the Lord should be a sacrifice, not just a little that we have left over

- At this point, Jesus leaves the temple area, and heads back to the Mount of Olives

#### 1. (1-2) JESUS PREDICTS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

- Jesus had confronted the religious leaders about their hypocrisy, and had accused them of being dead spiritually

- after lamenting over Jerusalem and their rejection of Him, Jesus leaves the temple and heads back across the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olive

- as they were leaving, the disciples point out the magnificence of the Temple structure, Jesus talked to them about the Temple being destroyed

- this temple was originally built by Zerubbabel and Ezra.

- Herod the Great had done a lot of work in beautifying the temple

- the temple was the center of Jewish life for almost a thousand years

- The Jewish historian Josephus said that the temple was covered with gold plates, and when the sun shone on them it was blinding to look at. Where there was no gold, there were blocks of marble of such a pure white that from a distance strangers thought there was snow on the temple.

- the stones were massive, measuring twenty feet high, twenty feet wide, and forty feet long

- literally fulfilled in 70 A.D., when Titus and the Romans marched into Jerusalem to quench the Jewish rebellion

- Rich Cathers

- The Romans were known for being respecters of other nations' religions. They had never torn down another nation's temples. I would imagine the Jews in Israel felt pretty good about their Temple, despite the fact of the Roman rule over the land. But that changed in AD 70 when Titus moved to put down the Jewish revolt.

- When the Titus took Jerusalem, he intended that the temple be left in tact. After getting into the city, the battle headed toward the temple where 6,000 Jews were holed up. On August 30, in the attack in the inner court, a soldier tossed a firebrand through a window into one of the side chambers. Titus rushed up shouting commands for the fire to be extinguished, but wasn't obeyed. Another soldier tossed a burning brand into the Holy Place that set the sanctuary itself on fire. The 6,000 people in the temple complex died.
- The fire melted the gold of the Temple and the molten gold seeped into the cracks between the stones. The Romans pulled the stones apart in order to salvage the gold.

- if this happened just as Jesus said that it would, what should we think about the rest of this chapter

2. WHEN WILL THESE THINGS BE?

### **(3-4) THE DISCIPLES ARE CURIUOS ABOUT THE FUTURE**

- one of the greatest questions that often think about is, what does the future hold

- for many, that is translated into worry and stress

- others are fearful

- for the person who has committed their life to following God, the future looks bright because we know how the story ends

- we have a blessed hope

- [Titus 2.11-15](#) - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

- sometimes in the waiting, it is easy to lose hope and become discouraged

- that's why Paul said that we should encourage and comfort each other with the fact of the Rapture

- [1 Thessalonians 4.16-18](#) - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- that's why it is important that we hang out together as much as we can

- [Hebrews 10.24-25](#) - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- here in an abbreviated account of what is called the Olivet Discourse, Jesus talks about what has been the hope of the Church for 2,000 years - His Coming and the end of the world

**(5-13) A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE TIME LEADING UP TO THE TRIBULATION**

- first warning = Do not be deceived

- His the danger of many coming claiming to be the Messiah

- why is it that before Jesus came, we have no record of someone claiming to be Christ, but after His coming there have been many

- the beginning of sorrows

- wars and rumors of war
  - what are we hearing today?
    - Russia and Ukraine
    - The Middle East
    - China and Taiwan
    - North Korea
    - Central America
    - infighting and conflict between sects of Islam and tribal leaders in Afghanistan
    - think of all that we hear of massive amounts of money being spent on military hardware
- earthquakes
- famine
- pestilences
- world-wide persecution of both Jews and Christians

**(14-23) THE LAST HALF OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

- the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel

- the people in Israel fleeing to the mountains

- the worst time in the history of humanity

3. [\(24-27\)](#) THE RETURN OF JESUS

4. LESSONS AND WARNINGS

**(28-31) LEARN FROM THE FIG TREE**

**(32-37) WATCH, PRAY, LOOK**

