

Quotes from the Sermon

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him.

BRUCE COCKBURN

(Lovers in a Dangerous Time)

*Nothing worth having comes without some kind of fight,
Got to kick at the darkness 'til it bleeds daylight.*

RESEARCH FROM GORDON CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary estimates that more than 70 million Christians have been martyred over the last 2,000 years. More than half of these were in the 20th century, mostly under fascist and communist regimes. For the early 21st century, they estimate that 1 million Christians were killed over the 10-year period from 2000–2010, an average of approximately 100,000 Christians killed each year.

STATISTIC FROM WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

According to Wycliffe Bible translators, there are 6,877 known languages. Shockingly, there are only 683 complete Bible translations. That does represent a majority of the world, but it means that there are still more than 2163 languages, spoken today, with NO Bible translation.

THE KING & HIS KINGDOM



THE STORY OF JESUS

Lovers in a Dangerous Time

Matthew 24:1-31

3/31/2019

THIS TIME, IN BETWEEN THE ADVENTS

The things listed here are **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS** of this present age, and the “birth pains” that we live in.

- Until Jesus returns, there will be **FALSE** messiahs.
- Until Jesus returns, there will be repeated **WARFARE**.
- Until Jesus returns, there will be **BIRTH PAINS**.

WHAT DISCIPLES SHOULD EXPECT

- Jesus’ followers should expect **PERSECUTION**.
- Jesus’ followers should expect **BETRAYAL**.
- Jesus’ followers should expect **DECEPTION**.
- Jesus’ followers should expect **WICKEDNESS** and **LOVELESSNESS**.

A disciple’s real commitment to Jesus is demonstrated in whether he or she remains **STEADFAST**.

THE END TO COME

- Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem and the **TEMPLE**, and a future abomination that causes desolation that will lead God’s people **ASTRAY** bringing destruction on all who resist.
- Christ will return, and it will be **PERSONAL**, it will be **VISIBLE**, it will be **GLORIOUS**, and it some way it will be **UNIVERSAL**.

BOTTOM LINE

- The kingdom of God will **PREVAIL**, and therefore you can continue to be **OBEDIENT** in the midst of suffering.
- Jesus’ tells us all these things not to make us **ANXIOUS**... but so that we will be **FAITHFUL**.

You can listen to today’s message at MissionTrailsChurch.com.

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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Why do you think it is helpful for Christians to think about "the end of the age" and "end times" issues? And at what point does it become unhelpful, and why?**

3. Read Matthew 24:4-14

What are some of these things that Jesus describes will take place during the age of the church, why are they such a big deal, and how is it that they still don't change the "game plan" for Christians living in this age?

4. **How is it that a follower of Jesus can remain steadfast, in the midst of some of the most difficult things imaginable?**

5. Read Matthew 24:22-31

What does this passage teach you about the second coming of Jesus Christ? What does it mean when verse 31 says: *And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.*

GETTING PERSONAL

6. **How does it help you to know that the kingdom of God will prevail, and therefore you can continue to be obedient in the midst of suffering?**

BRINGING IT HOME

7. Kyle finished the sermon by saying: *Jesus' tells us all these things not to make us ANXIOUS... but so that we will be FAITHFUL.*
How do you see this to be true, and what does it mean for you?

PRAY TOGETHER