

Sermon Discussion Guide September 13, 2020

Is This The End? | Matthew 24:1-14

This discussion guide is intended to be a resource for a conversation with a few others around a kitchen table.

1. When people think of the end times, the end of the world, or prophecies about the end, they have a variety of reactions. Some react with skepticism, some with fear, some with an unhealthy fascination. Some withdraw, some ignore, and some are motivated to share Jesus with others before it's too late. Where do you fall on that spectrum? Why do you think that is?
2. The first category of signs Jesus gives in Matthew 24:1-14 is chaos in the world: false saviors, wars and rumors of wars, national and international hostility, and natural disasters. Jesus says, "All these are the beginnings of birth pains" (v. 8). We know what we should *not* do—we should not be deceived (v. 4) or alarmed (v. 6). But what should we *do*? How can Christians in general, and you specifically, respond positively to chaos in the world?
3. The second category of signs Jesus gives is crisis in the Church: persecution and hatred from without, apostasy and hatred from within, false prophets, and apathetic faith. Jesus says, "The one who stands firm to the end will be saved" (v. 13). Take a few minutes to go to the website <https://www.icommittoprayer.com>, select a few prayer requests from Christians facing persecution around the world, and pray for them.
4. The final sign, which Jesus says will actually bring about the end, is the completion of our mission to make disciples. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Who is one person you could share Jesus with by the end of 2020 (that could start as simply as inviting them to a worship service)? Take a few minutes to pray specifically for that person to come to faith in Jesus. Will you commit to pray for that person every day?