

April 7, 2019
THE ROAD TO HOPE - Part 3
"Tuesday"

Tuesday - Matthew 21:20-25:46, Mark 11:20-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:38

After the events of Monday, Tuesday becomes a day of controversy and confrontations, as Jesus returns to teach in the Temple complex.

Matthew 24:1a (ESV): "Jesus left the temple and was going away...."

Matthew 24:1b (ESV): "...his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple."

Mark 13:1 (ESV): "...one of his disciples said to [Jesus], 'Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!'"

Matthew 24:2 (ESV): "But he answered them, 'You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.'"

It was bad enough that the Jews were under Roman rule, but the thought that the Temple of God Almighty would be destroyed had to come as a shock to Jesus' disciples, yet Jesus had alluded to this before.

Matthew 24:3 (ESV): "As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?'"

The disciples ask Jesus two questions:

1. When will the Temple be destroyed?
2. What will be the sign Jesus uses to reveal himself as Messiah and bring this age to an end?

"coming" (*parousia*, Greek) = presence, arrival, or coming; particularly used to describe a coming state visit by a king or a dramatic event by a god or goddess, such as a healing, that revealed their power and presence.

The disciples continue to think in physical terms rather than spiritual ones.

The disciples are talking about Jesus' first coming, but Jesus will actually talk about his second coming, which the early church would come to call *the Parousia*.

Matthew 24:4 (ESV): "And Jesus answered them, 'See that no one leads you astray.'"

Jesus warns them not to be led astray by various kinds of signs – i.e., false messiahs, wars, natural disasters, false prophets, and signs and wonders – that some would interpret as meaning the end is near.

The disciples seem to think that Jesus' coming or parousia and the destruction of the Temple will be linked, but Jesus appears to be making a distinction between the two events and talking about different signs pointing to each of the two events.

Throughout Matthew 24 and 25 Jesus uses several images and parables, and they all are meant to point to the uncertain nature of the timing of the Parousia, of his return and revealing.

Matthew 24:8 (ESV): “All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.”

Matthew 24:13-14 (ESV): “¹³But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Matthew 24:30-31 (ESV): “³⁰Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, 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. ³¹And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

Because Jesus' disciples will have to wait for his return, he spends the rest of chapter 24 and all of chapter 25 telling parables that encourage his disciples to persevere, to be ready and don't be found taking it easy.

Matthew 24:35-36 (ESV): “³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁶But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

Matthew 24:37 (ESV): “³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”

Matthew 24:42 (ESV): “Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 24:44 (ESV): “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Matthew 24:50 (ESV): “the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know”

Matthew 25:13 (ESV): “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

In each case, there are grave consequences for those who don't stay ready and prepared.

And Jesus tells us there will be trials and adversity in this in-between time.

But, with the warning also comes promise and hope - that he will see us through any and all adversities, that he is with us, through his Spirit living in us, and we will be blessed both in this life and especially in the life to come for our faithfulness.

Matthew 25:21 (ESV): “... ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

Matthew 25:34 (ESV): “... ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

Brochure: “Prayer, Fasting and More”

Next Week: Friday

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