

## Matthew 24:36-51 “The Coming of the Messiah Part 3”

Please stand and open your bible to Matthew 24:36-39, Pray.

We are in our third study on the Olivet Discourse, and we have come to a place where Jesus is changing the subject from answering their questions to applying the truth to their walk. This is the way that He has been teaching them all along. Just like the Sermon on the Mount and of course all the Parables. Let's review a few things to get us caught up and back into the context...

### Matthew 24:3

Now 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?”

We dealt with the first question a few weeks ago and showed that we can know the signs of the times by “Sorrows” which are Birth Pangs. Then Jesus reminded them of what would happen to them first, death by persecution. The next week we dealt with the next to questions by showing you that Jesus taught about the “Day of the Lord” a seven-year period that encompasses the rise of the Antichrist and the abomination of desolation and end with His second coming. And after that He gave us His first parable of the fig tree and we figured out this is speaking of the Nation of Israel and her rebirth, and that the generation is speaking ethnically of her and that she would be a nation until all these things would be fulfilled. Now Jesus is turning to you and I and letting us know a very important truth that is not hard to understand...

Matthew 24:36

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

No one means no one in the bible. Not the feast of trumpets, not the end of the Mayan calendar, not the fourth blood moon, not 1844, not 1988, no one! The day and the hour are referring back to the “Day of the Lord” which is the whole seven year tribulation period. Remember what Paul said to the Thessalonians right after he taught them on the Rapture...

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. or you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Jesus is telling them this so that they are ready at any moment. They were expecting the kingdom now and Jesus was telling them to wait and be ready. That time is coming but they are not to know, and you and I are not to know. To impress this point, He will use a few examples and next week a few Parables.

Matthew 24:37-39

The Sign of Noah

The first example He uses is that of the preflood world. They had the witness of Noah, and they just wrote it off. They mocked and scoffed but one day out of the blue, it started raining. Before they could ever react, it was too late. We see that in the world and the church right now. Just as it was then. We warn, we preach, we share the truth of the times and what do people do? Continue their life like it will continue on forever. More concerned with building their lives, families and careers then looking towards our blessed hope. In another place Jesus taught it like this...

Luke 17:26-27

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Now we know that Jesus used this example for more reasons than just that it will catch them unaware, He knows that this world will become more and more like the preflood world before that Day. Look at the world around us, can you not see it?

Genesis 6:5

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Any day now! The next example He uses teaches of the doctrine of imminency...

## The Imminency of His Return

Matthew 24:40-42

We can learn a couple things from this. First, He is showing this will be a global event. Women grind in the morning and men are in the field in the middle of the day. Again, Jesus taught this another time like this...

Luke 17:34-36

I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”

Now the other item to recognize is the bible teaches us that the one taken is going to be saved and the other left to be judged.

Noah and his family were taken away and the world drowned

Lot was taken away and Sodom burned

We will be taken away as the world is judged!

And he added to this one to be Watching. Will come back to that before we finish.

## The Watchful Homeowner

Matthew 24:43-44

The picture could not be clearer. If you know a thief is coming you will do everything in your power to protect your property. No way

are you going to let the burglar in! The point He is making is the world will not know what hit them. Those left behind it will come like a thief in the night, like the destruction of Sodom, and like the flood of Noah. All of a sudden! But for you and I we need to remember...

1 Thessalonians 5:4

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Paul would go on to say we are to be of the day and thinking clearly ready for His return at any moment! He has now told us by example to watch and be ready. Now He is going to use the first of four parables to teach us the attitude we are to have in light of this truth...

The Parable of the Servants

Matthew 24:45-51

This parable is one of not only contrast but that of great warning. There are many even in the church that are not looking for the return of their master. They mock us and belittle us. They join in the chorus of the world to say we are wrong and need stop making a big deal about it. Jesus doesn't allow for that division. You are either with Him and waiting for Him or you are not. The idiom is pretty clear, those that are not are not His at all! This not speaking of a loss of rewards it is speaking of no possession at all. It is a very bleak warning that Peter mentioned...

## 2 Peter 3:3-4

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

Now we need to deal with those that say that Jesus never referred to the Rapture in the Olivet Discourse and only spoke of His second coming. I think that is a ludicrous statement and unworthy of any real argument. But, to show you the plain truth let us remember that we have three accounts of this teaching. Mark and Luke both end here and do not share the parables in chapter 25 that we will look at next week. They do add some important context to make sure you and I receive what is being taught and apply it to our walk so that we are in the watching and waiting camp.

## Mark 13:32-37

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

## Luke 21:34-36

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Why \* would He tell us to pray and ask to escape if He was expecting us to go through it?

The word that Jesus uses for escape is “Ekpheugo”, Ek is out of and Pheugo is place. It is to be removed out of place. Sound like the Rapture to me! Jesus told His disciples right before He went to the cross...

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

So \* that leaves us with the big question, who is worthy to escape? What if we don’t pray are we not?

The word translated worthy is the Greek word “Kataschuo” Kata is against and Schuos is to prevail. It literally means to overcome and to vanquish.

We \* are to pray always that we would overcome and be raptured from the tribulation that is coming. We are to pray for His return!

But the reality of it all is who is really worthy?

Revelation 5:4-5

So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

And John would remind us...

1 John 5:4-5

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Do you want to be counted worthy?

Then believe in Jesus Christ!

Pray, Communion, Mike