



INSPI[RED]

the words of Jesus

The Week of September 13, 2020 What Does Jesus Say About The Future? Group Discussion Questions

Intro Questions

- Can you remember a time that you had wait for a long time for something promised?
- Where you anxious while waiting?
- What was it like when you received what you were waiting for?

Read Matthew 24:1-2

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. 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."

- Why was this such a shocking statement to the disciples?
- What kind of disposition do you think they were in as they went to the Mt. of Olives

Read Matthew 24:3

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?"

- What was the first question for Jesus from the disciples?
- What do you think they were feeling when they asked that question?

Read Matthew 24:15-27

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. David points out that we are missionaries to our town. As a missionary, how is your mission field?

- The ominous days that Jesus described bring to mind vivid word pictures. How do you think those listening to Him reacted to those thoughts?

Read Matthew 24:32-34

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”

- What are the clues that Jesus gives us to timing of these events?

Read Matthew 24:3-8

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?” And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

- What was the second question they asked?
- Jesus said one of the signs is deceivers and false prophets, what are some examples that we see today?
- Why would Jesus use the metaphor of birth pangs to explain the wait before He returns?
- What is the “spin up” to Jesus’ return?

Read Matthew 24:9-13

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. What was the second question they asked?

- Given all the persecution Jesus tells us we will experience as His return approaches, why is perseverance the hallmark of a true believer?

Read Matthew 24:29-31

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then 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. And 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.

- Why would Jesus say that those who reject God will mourn at His return and face a day of reckoning?
- Why would He say that those who accept His offer of grace and mercy who experience the “best of days” at His return?
- How can we live fervently with a steadfast faith when we can be so easily distracted by the temporary things of this world?
- If Jesus were to return today, would you be found faithful?
- How can we serve in anticipation of Christ’s return?

Watch this Clip from this week’s message and pray along with Pastor David:

https://youtu.be/3suNlyV_Vpl

Suggested closing prayer from David’s final words from the message:

And so today I encourage you, I beg you, as we conclude this in depth look into the words and claims of Christ, to trust him with your future. A future in which he promises will one day change forever and a day for which we absolutely need to be prepared. So let me pray with you and I invite you to take this moment to say, Jesus, I trust you to deal with my past. I trust you to align my present with your will. I will entrust you with my future. Pray together.