

Message Notes

The Beginning of Birth Pangs
Matthew 24:1-14, Pt. 78
Pastor Al Streder
July 30, 2006

Message Outline

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Introduction

"Few chapters of the Bible have called forth more disagreement among interpreters than Matthew 24 and its parallels in Mark 13 and Luke 21. The history of the interpretation of this chapter is immensely complex." (D.A. Carson)

Three Observations

Observation #1: The temple will cease to be the center of worship (24:1-2)

Observation #2: We don't need to know the precise timing of the end of the age (24:3-8)

Observation #3: Jesus is more concerned that we are prepared for life and ministry in the meantime. (24:4-14)

Applications

Be Discerning

1. Don't be misled by false messiahs:
2. Don't be misled by conditions in the world.

Be Diligent

1. Endure to the end (24:13)
2. Labor to fulfill the Great Commission (24:14)

Discussion Questions

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Read Matthew 23:37-24:2

1. How would Jesus replace the temple as the locus of worship?
Relate this to Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4:7-24.
2. Why was the temple so important to the Jews?
How had a healthy understanding of the temple been tainted?
What were the implications of the temple's destruction?

Read Matthew 24:3-14

3. How does Jesus answer the disciples' questions in verse 3?
Does He give a direct answer? Why do you think Jesus answered the way He did?
4. How should Christians respond to the signs and events that Jesus describes?

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5. Read Acts 1:6-8. How does this text relate to the Matthew text?
Why do you think that Jesus does not give us a clearer timetable for His return and the end of the age?
6. Discuss some practical ways to cultivate discernment, so that we are not misled by the "signs of the times" or by false christs and false teachers (prophets).
7. In light of the difficulties that are promised as we await His return, what are some ways to help Christians endure?
8. How should Matthew 24:14 motivate us to be more active in fulfilling the Great Commission? Read Matthew 28:19-20.

What's Up with Growth Groups?

Growth Groups are one of the best ways to jump into life at Grace!

We believe that gathering in small groups of 6-12 people to study the Bible, pray for each other and care for each other is the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church.

While Growth Groups are on hiatus for the summer, they will resume again following the Fall Kick Off.

For more information see the Growth Groups brochure or contact Pastor Steve.