



Kingdom Preparation

The Danger of Misplaced Faith

Matthew 23:37-24:2

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Sermon Outline:

Matthew 23:37-24:2

1. Jesus' Lament Over the Hard-Hearted v. 23:37
2. Jesus' Judgment Revealed to the Hard-Hearted Vv. 38-39
3. Jesus' Prophecies of the Result of Idolatry Vv. 24:1-2

Matthew 23:37-24:2

Lament over Jerusalem

37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

38 Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

39 For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Signs of Christ's Return

1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 23:37-24:2.

INTRODUCTION

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

1. What has been your reaction to warnings, rebukes, or admonishments over the years of your life? What does the messenger of these have to do with your reaction?

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. Jesus' Lament Over the Hard-Hearted v. 23:37

2. Why is Jerusalem so special to GOD the FATHER? (2 Chron. 7:16; Zech. 2:8) What does it take to be the "apple of HIS eye" or "the place where HIS NAME is forever"? (1 John 4:9-10; Rom. 5:8)

3. What is being revealed about GOD's heart? (Ezek. 18:32; 33:11) If GOD does whatever HE pleases, then why does HE let us do whatever we please? (Isa. 46:10; Eph. 1:4-5; Gen. 6:6; Deut. 5:29; Num. 23:19) "While affirming GOD's sovereignty, one must understand HIS pleas for the repentance of the reprobate as well-meant pleas-and HIS goodness toward the wicked as a genuine mercy designed to provoke them to repentance. (Rom. 2:4) The emotion displayed by CHRIST here and in all similar passages (such as Luke 19:41) is obviously a deep, sincere passion. All CHRIST's feelings must be in perfect harmony with the divine will (John 8:29)-and therefore these lamentations should not be thought of as mere exhibitions of HIS humanity." John MacArthur Study Bible Commentary

4. How is GOD's heart-desire revealed throughout Scripture? Why did GOD pay the price for our chosen sinfulness?

II. Jesus' Judgment Revealed to the Hard-Hearted Vv. 38-39

5. Why is GOD bringing this judgment on HIS chosen people/place? (Mal. 1:6-7, 12, 13; 2:9, 17) What is the warning to the Church? What assurance of security does the Church have from CHRIST HIMSELF?

6. What is the difference between v.39 and Matthew 21:9? Why did the Jewish nation look for a “restoration” of the kingdom? What kingdom did the nation expect? (Isa. 9:6-7; 2 Sam. 7:12-16) “The mission of Jesus Christ, as depicted in the New Testament, was often misunderstood by those who encountered Him, including His disciples, the religious leaders of the time, and the general populace. This misunderstanding stemmed from various expectations and preconceived notions about the Messiah and His role (e.g. Matt. 16:21-23; Acts 1:6).” Biblehub Commentary

7. What is the promise given? Will CHRIST’s return be seen by all people or just the Israelites? (Matt. 24:27) What will be the result of the Second Coming of CHRIST? (Ps. 37:12-13, 38; 94:23; Rev. 19:11-16) How should we anticipate HIS return? (Matt. 6:10; 25:1-13)

III. Jesus’ Prophecies of the Result of Idolatry Vv. 24:1-2

8. What happened in 70 A.D.? What was the “fruit” of the religious system in Israel at the time of CHRIST? (Luke 12:1; Matt. 15:14) What part do we play in the “fruit” production in the Church today?

9. What disqualified the second Temple from being sacred? (Ezek. 8:5-12, 14, 16-18; 10:18-19; 11:23; Heb. 1:3; Luke 21:37; Zech. 14:4) What are the commands of CHRIST that radiate GOD’s glory to those around us? (John 14:15, *Repent* Matt. 4:17; *Be Baptized* Matt. 3:15; *Follow ME* Matt. 4:19; *Rejoice* Matt. 5:12; *Let your light shine* Matt. 5:16; *Honor GOD’s Law* Matt. 5:17-19; *Be Reconciled* Matt. 5:24-25; *Keep your eyes on HIM* Matt. 5:28-30; *Keep your word* Matt. 5:38-42; *Love your enemies* Matt. 5:44; *Be perfect* Matt. 5:48; *Practice Secret Disciplines* Matt. 6:1-18; *Lay up treasures in heaven* Matt. 6:19-21; *Seek GOD’s Kingdom* Matt. 6:33, etc.)

10. What is the heart position that worships GOD “in spirit and truth”? (John 4:21-24; Phil. 3:3; Ps. 51:17; Matt. 22:37-39)

Matt. 23:37–39 Lament over Jerusalem. Jerusalem apparently refers to the whole nation of Israel, for whom Jesus deeply laments.

Matt. 23:38 house. In the OT, this is an expression for the temple; possibly here it has broader reference to Jerusalem's leadership. All Jewish religious authority will collapse with the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.

Matt. 23:39 As Jesus cites Ps. 118:26 (cf. Matt. 21:9), he identifies himself with God's Messiah and Savior who will once again come to his people, but only after a time of great judgment, when they are finally ready to receive him.

Matt. 24:1–25:46 The Delay, Return, and Judgment of Messiah. These two chapters are often called the "Olivet Discourse" because Jesus "sat on the Mount of Olives" (24:3) when he spoke these words. It is the fifth of Jesus' five major discourses recorded in the Gospel of Matthew (see Introduction: Key Themes; Literary Features). Addressed to his disciples, it is intended to give them a prophetic overview of the events to transpire in both the near and distant future.

Matt. 24:1–14 The Beginning of Birth Pains. Jesus previews the general conditions of the earth, which in some sense characterize the entire age, before he returns: sufferings throughout the world (vv. 4–8), the suffering of his disciples (vv. 9–13), and the preaching of the gospel to all nations (v. 14).

Matt. 24:1 left the temple. The road from Jerusalem to Bethany, where Jesus and his disciples stay each evening, takes one alongside the Mount of Olives, which affords a spectacular view of the temple in the distance.

Matt. 24:2 Jesus' prophecy of the destruction of the temple was fulfilled in A.D. 70 when the Roman army under Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. Not . . . one stone upon another may be intended as a metaphor for total destruction, or it may be understood as something that was literally fulfilled in the destruction of the temple building itself (but not the entire Temple Mount, some of which remains to this day).