

Together with Jesus

Week 12 – Matthew 23 and 24
Jerusalem, Jerusalem



Warm Up

How do you think is wrong with the institution of the Church today? What could use repair or reformation?



Matthew 23:1-12

Hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees

Jesus in the temple after the religious rulers have seemingly finished with Him, turns to the crowd in order to teach and warn them about these men. He seems to warn less about what they teach as the inconsistency of their actions with their preaching.



Question: Why do people today level the accusation of hypocrisy against the church?



Question: What are the specific charges against the scribes and Pharisees here?

Matthew 23:13-36

Woes Against the Scribes and Pharisees

Matthew records Jesus utilizing a more formal prophetic form of “oracles of judgment,” a sort of “beatitudes in reverse” against the scribes, Pharisees, and any other hypocrites.

Matthew 23:37-39

Grieving for Jerusalem

Ending His time in the Temple, Jesus grieves over Jerusalem in a tender moment. Here it seems that Jesus regrets the hard heartedness of the Israelite religion that has pushed Him away from this holy city. He seems to accuse the city of not being like the crowds that were there at His entrance.



Question: What does this passage show us about Jesus?



Question: What of these things apply to the church today? What should we expect?

Matthew 24:1-14

Signs of Christ's Return

Jesus leaves the temple and gets as far as the Mount of Olives before His disciples begin asking questions. These questions lead Him to explain the rest of world and Church history briefly and what they can expect as disciples.

Matthew 24:15-31

Warnings for the Coming Age

Jesus' explanation of the coming age takes a darker turn, one of warning. These warnings seem to point at least partially to the destruction of the Temple, connecting it up with the Greek erection of an altar to Zeus in the temple. This section of Matthew is also hotly debated in terms of what it points to.



Question: How much of this text do you think Christians today should heed as a warning?



Question: Why do you think Jesus is sure to make this point with the disciples?

Matthew 24:32-44

Be Ready at All Times

Jesus then warns His disciples that while He has given them signs, they should always be ready. Encouraging them not to seek a false security in what they can discern by signs, but letting their righteousness always be active.

Matthew 24:45-51

Parable of the Worthy Servants

Jesus solidifies the points He has been making with a parable (one that will lead to other parables in 25) about how the disciples should always be ready. Jesus seems to be specifically inoculating His disciples against what He has seen in Jerusalem.



apud: phillip medhurst THE FAITHFUL AND WISE SREWARD. LUKE 13:41-48. JAN LUYKEN excudit: harry kossuth

Question: What lesson should the church take from Jesus' words here?



Wrap Up

No Bible study next week (Easter). Please read Matthew 25 and 26 on your own. We will play “catch up” with the readings over the next weeks.

Next week – Matthew 25 and 26