

Together with Jesus

Week 12 - Matthew 23 and 24 - Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Matthew 23:1-12 **Hypocrisy of the Scribes and the Pharisees**
As the Pharisees and Scribes leave dejected, Jesus turns to the crowd in order to warn them of the hypocrisy of the religious leaders.

- **Why do people level the charge of hypocrisy at the church today?**

Matthew 23:13-36 **Pronouncement of Woes**
Jesus continues with a set of formal prophetic oracles of woe against the Pharisees and other hypocrites.

- **What are the specific charges against the scribes and Pharisees here?**

Matthew 23:37-39 **Jerusalem, Jerusalem**
Jesus bemoans and grieves the way that Jerusalem has rejected Him and the grace that He brings with Him.

- **What does this passage show us about Jesus?**

Matthew 24:1-14 **Signs of Christ's Return**
Jesus leaves the temple area and makes it out to the Mount of Olives before He is stopped for a question. He gives some signs of His return for people to watch for.

- **What of these things apply to the church today? What should we expect?**

Matthew 24:15-31 **Warnings of the Coming Age**
Getting darker, Jesus brings out more warnings and signs for the disciples to consider about the coming age, at least partially prophesying about the destruction of the Jerusalem temple.

- **How much of this text today do you feel Christians should heed as a warning?**

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Matthew 24:32-44 Be Ready at All Times

Jesus continues, telling His disciples that while signs may be present, they should not let their righteousness be dependent upon what they can foresee.

- **Why do you think Jesus is keen to make this point?**

Matthew 24:45-51 Parable of the Worthy Servants

Jesus finishes this section, reinforcing His earlier points with a parable about how the disciples should always be ready.

- **What lesson should the church take from Jesus' words here?**

Red Letter Challenge this week – Judge Not

This week, take Jesus' words from Matthew 7:1, "Judge Not" to heart. Instead of looking upon others with judgment this Holy Week, consider your own sins and how glad you are to have a Savior who doesn't judge you according to them, but forgives you.