

32 – END TIMES: THE PRESENT TIME

I. The Setting for Jesus' Teaching (Matthew 24:1-3; Mark 13:1-4; Luke 21:5-7)

Scripture Matthew 24:1-3 (ESV)

¹ Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² 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." 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?"

A. National Pride (Mark 13:1-2)

1. The Disciple's Awe (Mark 13:1)

- Reflecting national pride, a disciple points out the beauty of the Temple to Jesus.

2. Jesus' Response (Mark 13:2)

- Jesus bluntly points out that these buildings will be completely torn down.

B. The Disciples' Question (Mark 13:3)

1. The Private Setting (Mark 13:3)

- While Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, he was approached privately by the disciples.

2. The Question (Mark 13:3)

- The disciples wanted to know when this event will take place and what will be the sign.
- In Matthew's gospel, the disciples ask Jesus concerning sign of his coming and the end of the age.
- While they believe that the Messiah's coming brings the end, they are not referring to the Second Coming.

II. The Current Situation (Matthew 24:4-8; Mark 13:5-8; Luke 21:8-11; 2 Timothy 3:1-9)

Scripture Matthew 24:4-8 (ESV)

⁴ And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ⁶ 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. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

A. The Call to Be Aware (Matthew 24:4)

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- Jesus tells the disciples to make sure that they do not allow others to lead them astray.
- The emphasis of this instruction is the need for the disciples to be proactive in this area.

B. Understand the Times (Matthew 24:5-7)

1. False Messiahs (Matthew 24:5)

- Jesus points out that many will come in his name and claim to be the Messiah.
- These false messiahs will lead many people astray.

2. Wars (Matthew 24:6-7a)

- Jesus stresses that they will hear of wars and the rumors of possible wars.
- He calls his disciples to not to be alarmed by this reality.
- The reality of wars must take place, but it does not mean that the end has come.
- Jesus stresses that nations and kingdoms will come against each other.

3. Natural Disasters (Matthew 24:7b)

- Jesus points out there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
- In Luke 22:11, Jesus also states that there will be pestilences in various places.
- According to Luke, Jesus also stated that there will be terrors and signs from heaven.

C. Jesus' Assessment (Matthew 24:8)

- Surprisingly, Jesus points out that these are simply the beginning of birth pains.
- Birth pains are the false contractions that a pregnant woman experiences before labor.
- So, Jesus is simply stating that these things are not the events of the end.

D. The Nature of People (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

Scripture 2 Timothy 3:1-9 (ESV)

¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as

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Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹ But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

- Paul points that the people will become selfish and continue in their sin.
- He warns believers to avoid such people.