

# TELOS

*Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.*

*"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"*

*Col. 1:28*

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## *Matthew 24*

A couple of weeks ago, we started an online forum for the youth of our church. It's a place where you can go and have a conversation, leave a prayer request, have a virtual Latte', or ask a serious spiritual question. We've had all sorts of good conversations there.

One of the most recent topics, gaining a lot of interest is the discussion about the end times. There is no more puzzling aspect of Christian doctrine or Holy Scripture than the events leading up to Christ's return.

Anyone who has been a Christian for even a short time has had to wrestle with thrones, lions, dragons, beasts, and a host of other apocalyptic images in scripture. It's enough to challenge even the most adept biblical scholar.

Added to the confusion is the myriad of complicated interpretations, and even more complicated names given to them. Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, Amillennialism, and the like. Then there are those who see biblical prophecy fulfilled in every news headline. It's enough, not only to confuse us, but to fill us with anxiety and dread.

But that wasn't God's intent, at least not for those who have been bought with the blood of Christ. As we study Matthew 24 together I think you'll see that Christ's commands concerning the end times are very clear, and very simple. In fact, they can be boiled down to four simple principles:

We have work to do. (24:14)

We need to remain watchful. ( Don't get caught unaware.)

We need to finish well

We win. (Sorry to spoil the ending!)

Enjoy!

# FOLLOW ME

Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus

### Kingdom Principle #5:

*Jesus intends to reach the world by creating safe kingdom communities of humble, transparent followers.*

### Memory Verse:

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

*Matthew 24:14*

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

# Monday

## Signs of the End of the Age - Matthew 24:1-14

### Passage Preview

Jesus turns His attention to the end times. The disciples have a private conversation with Jesus as He discloses the signs which will usher in the end times.

### Key Words

- End of the Age: The culmination of the course of human history
- Deceive: Lead astray
- Birth Pangs: Signs indicating the end is coming
- False Prophets: Messengers from Satan who lead people astray
- Gospel of the kingdom: The good news of salvation, with the emphasis on the Messianic kingdom

### Read Matthew 24:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. <sup>2</sup> "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

<sup>3</sup> "As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup> but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.



## Prayer

Father, you know my heart. I ask you today to search my heart and show me if my heart has grown cold or distracted or has become attached to things rather than to You. Cleanse my heart and inflame it with a love that is big enough to embrace the whole world. Amen

# Tuesday

## More Signs of the End Times - Matthew 24:15-35

### Passage Preview

Jesus continues the process of training His disciples to recognize the signs of the times, to grasp present realities and future events. The signs in this section relate to the fall of Jerusalem in 70A.D. and to the undated end of the world, which will usher in the 1,000-year age known as the Millennium.

### Key Words

- Abomination: The idolatrous image to be set up in the temple in Jerusalem
- Elect: Chosen, picked out
- Sign: Indicator, point to something coming

### Read Matthew 24:15-35

<sup>15</sup> "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand-- <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. <sup>18</sup> Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. <sup>19</sup> How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

<sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. <sup>22</sup> If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. <sup>23</sup> At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you ahead of time.

<sup>26</sup> "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

<sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the distress of those days  
" 'the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

<sup>30</sup> "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

<sup>32</sup> "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>34</sup> I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.



# Wednesday

## Day and Hour of End Times Unknown - Matthew 24:36-41

### Passage Preview

Jesus describes the moral condition of the world in the end times, comparing it to Noah's day.

### Key Words

- Noah: Old Testament person saved in the ark from the worldwide flood
- Ark: Vessel made by Noah to save his family and the animals from the flood
- Flood: Worldwide flood in Genesis 6, which came as a result of man's wickedness

### Read Matthew 24:36-41

<sup>36</sup> "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

1. What phrase stood out to you? Why?
2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?
3. What signs do you see today that could signal the end of human history?
4. When a culture begins to crumble, as ours seems to be doing, how can we, as Christ followers, live lives that are attractive to nonbelievers?

5. **Kingdom Question:** Verse 41 says, "...one will be taken and the other left." On what basis do you think you'll be taken?

### Summary

Our natural instinct in this is to ask Jesus when all of this will happen. Only the Father knows when this will take place. God is in control of history and shapes events for His kingdom purposes.

### Prayer

Thank you God that you are in control - of my life and of human history. I trust you with my future. Amen

# Thursday

## The Wise and Watchful Servant - Matthew 24:42-51

### Passage Preview

Jesus tells a short parable to emphasize the importance of remaining faithful until His return.

### Key Words

- Keep Watch: Keep an eye on, observe, to be on the alert
- Faithful: Devoted, steady in the performance of duty
- Wise: Discerning, perceptive, understanding

### Read Matthew 24:42-51

<sup>42</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

<sup>45</sup> "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. <sup>47</sup> I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' <sup>49</sup> and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. <sup>50</sup> The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. <sup>51</sup> He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. What phrase stood out to you? Why?



# Friday

## “What Governs You”

### Read chapter 24 in the Follow Me Book

#### **Introduction**

Fear. Healthy biblical fear is recognition of the awesome God we serve and love. When we grasp the depth of God’s love and replace fear with God’s peace, we experience the liberating power of biblical fear.

1. What fears have you struggled with in your life?
2. How have your fears affected you?
3. What is the relationship between fear and the love of God?
4. How could the healthy fear of God set you free from your fears?

These TELOS materials have been adapted with permission from the "Follow Me" discipleship Curriculum produced by North Shore Baptist Church in Bothell, WA and based on the book Follow Me by Jan David Hettinga and the gospel of Matthew.

*This week's editor:*  
*Keith Kitchen*

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a "community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society.

### Summary

The process of biblical transformation can be measured at the heart level when we've seen the Holy Spirit liberate us from our fears.

### Kingdom Principle

Complete Kingdom Principle #5:

Jesus intends to \_\_\_\_\_ the world by creating safe kingdom  
\_\_\_\_\_ of humble, transparent followers.

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_

⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:  
phone: 773-4433 or email: ken.trailview@sasktel.net

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### Memory Verse:

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