

February 3: The Final Week Continues

1. Read **Matthew 23:1-39** and answer:

- What did Jesus tell his followers to do regarding the teachings of the teachers of the law and the Pharisees (since they sit in Moses' seat)?
- What does the phrase "sit in Moses' seat" mean?

Note: "Moses's seat" was where the one who read the scriptures in the synagogue would sit. Jesus is telling them to follow the scriptures, not people.

- For what purpose does Jesus say the leaders do everything?
- What are some of the things that they did?

Note: The Pharisees taught that when the Messiah came, that there would be "power" in the tassels on His garment. Their "long tassels" or "wide phylacteries" might have caused the people who saw them to think they might be the Messiah.

- Why did Jesus say that we were not to call people "Rabbi" or "Father" or "teacher" as a religious title?

Note: Titles give glory to men and not to God.

- Jesus then pronounces seven woes on the scribes and Pharisees. For each of these woes, answer the following:
 - How did they "shut the kingdom of heaven"?
 - How does Jesus say they were "hypocrites"?
 - What was wrong with their teaching on "swearing"?
 - What was the problem with their concern for tithing even small things?
 - What did Jesus say was their problem with ceremonial cleanliness?

Note: The Pharisees were seeking praise and honor from men and so they based their "rules" not on the scriptures but on what would "seem" religious to men.

- To what two things does Jesus compare the leaders?
- How were they hypocrites in regard to the "prophets"?
- What did Jesus say they had done and would do to the prophets sent to them?
- What is significant in Jesus's phrase "from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah"?

Note: the death of Abel is found in Genesis (first book) and the death of Zechariah is found in Chronicles (the last book) in the Hebrew Old Testament. Hence the guilt of all the generations was coming on them.

- What did Jesus want to do to Jerusalem?
- What did he say would happen to it instead?

Note also, that the Jews referred to the temple as “the house” and felt that as long as it stood, that God was pleased with them.

2. Read **Mark 12: 41-44** and answer:

- What was it about the two mites that the widow put into the treasury that impressed Jesus?
- What did her offering show?

Note: Jesus could tell what the coins were from the sounds made when people would drop their coins into the temple treasury box. On the top was a cone shaped metallic piece called a “trumpet” that would produce different sounds as different coins were dropped in and rattled down.

3. Read **John 12:20-50** and answer:

- There were some Greeks at the feast who came to the disciple Philip with what request?

Note: Greeks asking to see Jesus would signify that His time had come. To whom had Jesus been sent before this? See **Matt 15:24**.

- When Jesus heard their request, what did it signify to him?

Note: Jesus knew his purpose was to die on the cross for the sins of all men. Greeks coming to him signified nearing the completion of His mission.

- What did Jesus say had to happen to a kernel of wheat before it could produce seeds?
- How did he apply this to his disciples?
- Did Jesus ask God to save him from “this hour”?
- What happened about this time from heaven?
- What did the people think it was?
- When did Jesus say that he “would draw all men to himself”?
- What did he mean by this?
- When the people questioned Jesus about this, what did he tell them to do?
- Even after all the miracles that Jesus had done, many still refused to believe in him. What prophecies did this fulfill?

4. Read **Isa 53:1 and Isa 6:10** and answer:

- Even some of those who believed in Jesus would not confess him, why?

Note: The synagogue was not only the place of meeting on the Sabbath day, it was also the school, the neighborhood gathering place, the center of social life in their community. Being put out would have been like losing all social and business contacts within the community.

- What did Jesus say would judge those who reject Him?
- Where did Jesus get the words that he spoke?

Note: Jesus was not only given His words by God, but also told when and how to say them for maximum effect!

5. Read **Mark 13:1-31** and answer:

- As Jesus is leaving the temple area, his disciples point out the massive stones and magnificent buildings. What prophecy does Jesus make about the temple?
- What questions do the disciples ask Jesus concerning his prophecy?
- Did the disciples think they were asking two different questions? Explain:

Note: To the Jews, the temple was the symbol of their national existence. Without the temple, the world would come to an end in their mind.

- What signs does Jesus say would precede the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple?
- What did he say would happen regarding the gospel before “the end” comes?

Note: Jesus gave many “signs” of the coming destruction of Jerusalem: one of them was the preaching of the gospel to all nations. Was this accomplished? See **Colossians 1:23**. What does this tell you about the date of the writing of the Colossian letter? (The Temple was destroyed in 70 AD)

- What “explanation” does Luke use for Matthew’s and Mark’s “abomination that causes desolation”? (Luke 21:20)
- What were the Christians to do at this time?

Note: As the Roman army came toward Jerusalem many of the people fled into the city, the Christians who listened to and believed the prophecy however fled out of the city and went to a town called Pella across the Jordan river to the north.

- How are the conditions described at that time? (See **Matt 24:21**)
- What did Jesus predict would happen to try to “deceive even the elect” at that time?
- What lesson did Jesus say that they should learn from the fig tree?
- When did Jesus say that “these things would happen”?

Note: a “generation” was considered to be 40 years, based on the time of the wilderness wandering.

6. Read **Matthew 24:35-51** and answer:

- Jesus now answers their second question concerning the end of the world. What does he say about the timing of this?
- What will people be doing when this occurs?
- To what other event did Jesus compare this?
- What warning does he give his disciples?

Note: There are no “warning signs” for this as there were for the destruction of Jerusalem.

- Jesus then tells a parable about a servant put in charge until the master returns. What will happen to the servant who is faithful to his assigned task?
- What will happen to the servant who is unfaithful, thinking his master will not return soon?

7. Read **Matthew 25:1-46** and answer:

- Jesus tells a parable of ten virgins (bridesmaids). What wise preparation did five of them make?
- What did the foolish virgins ask of the wise ones?
- What reply did they get?
- What happened while the foolish ones were gone to get more oil?
- What was the lesson of the parable?

Note: The parable of the bridesmaids tells us there are no “second chances” for the unprepared at the judgment. One cannot “buy” what they should have had beforehand. (Cannot be bought out of purgatory – there is no purgatory)

- What lesson was Jesus teaching in the parable of the talents?
- What would happen to those who do not properly use what God has given them?
- When Jesus comes in his glory, what does he say that he will do?

Note: The places of punishment and reward have been established since the creation of the world! Also notice that it is clear who are sheep and who are goats – and no arguing over which group one is put in. Judgment is the passing of the final sentence. Those who have died are already divided in Hades (torment or paradise). The only ones divided at judgment will be those who happen to be alive when the Lord returns.

- What describes those who the King will place on his right hand?
- What describes those who the King will place on his left hand?
- What reward will the righteous receive?
- What will the wicked receive?
 - How long will these rewards or punishments last?

Note: Also note the sentence is final (forever) – there is no changing, no purgatory to atone for sins after death. Also note that the devil is not “ruler of hell.” Hell is a place designed for his eternal punishment and those who follow him.