STUDY PACK 22

THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

"The importance of the climax of the Lord's earthly career in His passion, death, resurrection, and the forty days is clearly indicated by the disproportionate amount of space the four Gospel writers devote to it. John, for example, devotes the _____ to events after the last arrival at Bethany. A very large proportion of these materials reports His controversies with the _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____. Another large part contains His last discourses to the disciples. Each Synoptic reports a long discourse about the future destruction of Jerusalem and the second advent – two of Matthew's longest chapters (24 and 25) are devoted to it. John captured forever the intimate final instructions and prayer of our Lord in the portion, unique in the entire Bible, found in chapters 13-17."

~~ Robert Duncan Culver, *The Life of Christ*, p. 215 ~~

I. THE WIDOW'S MITES – LUKE 21:1-4; MARK 12:41-44

A. Christ had been rebuking the religious leaders for their hypocrisy, ending with a condemnation of the scribes for looking holy yet robbing _____ of their homes. Then he observed a widow putting her last two _____ in the offering for the Temple (a mite is worth about 6 minutes of work). There were rich men (probably scribes and Pharisees) putting in much larger sums of money, but Christ said that the widow's gift was _____ than theirs. Her gift was all she had while their gifts were a small _____ of their wealth.

B. God accepts our offerings according to what we _____ and not according to what we don't have, 2 Corinthians 8:12.

II. DISCOURSE ON HIS DEATH – "WALK IN THE LIGHT" – JOHN 12:20-50

Some Greeks who were in Jerusalem worshipping for Passover wanted to see Christ (remember, Christ had ministered in many Greek areas). We don't know Christ's response to their request, but He talks about His death, discipleship, and drawing people to Him.

A. Verses 23-27: Christ would soon die. He knew that to accomplish His _____ of saving sinners, He would have to die. He was prepared for it. He encourages us to follow His example and die to _____ so that our lives can really be worthwhile. He promises that God will honor those who live for Him.

B. Verses 31-32: Christ draws _____ men to Him. He wants all to be saved and all can be saved but they won't because they _____ not to. No one can say that Christ did not offer salvation to them.

C. Verses 37-50: Because of the nation's unbelief and rejection of the Messiah, God hardened the people so that their condemnation was both just and certain. This

created problems for the early Christians when they presented Jesus as the Messiah. Why would the Jews reject Him if He was the answer to prophecy? Their answer was that this rejection was necessary – not only because it was predicted in Isaiah 53:1-4 and Isaiah 6:9-10, but because the Messiah had to die to redeem the world of its sins (Isaiah 53:4-6).

D. Verses 42-43: **John 12:42-43:** *Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: [43]For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God*. These verses describe a situation that those who teach lordship salvation say is impossible. A man can be a disciple of Christ without telling anyone about it. He can be a disciple while keeping it a secret. He may keep it a secret because he cares more about what people think of him than what God thinks. (National rejection made it unpopular, even dangerous, to publicly support Christ. Some of the leaders of Israel were hesitant and fearful to come out in support of Christ.)

III. THE OLIVET DISCOURSE – LUKE 21; MARK 13; MATTHEW 24-25

A. At this point Christ has completed His public ministry to the nation of Israel. He has warned them and provided evidence that He is the Messiah, leaving no excuse for their rejection. The nation will be left to continue on the path to destruction (which will come in 70 A.D.).

B. The Olivet Discourse is a long conversation between Christ and the disciples that begins as they walk from the _____ to the _____. Most of it was given while Christ and the disciples were sitting on the Mount of Olives looking across the Kidron Valley at the Temple, Mark 13:1-3.

C. As they walked out of the Temple, the disciples commented on how amazing the Temple looked. **Mark 13:1**, *And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!* Christ made it clear that the disciples should _____ be impressed. The Temple and all it stood for would be destroyed. **Mark 13:2**, *And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down*. This was fulfilled by Rome in 70 A.D.. Surprised, the disciples naturally wanted to know _____ this would happen. In His answer, Christ outlined the events leading up to the destruction of the temple, and also described end time events that relate to His Second Coming.

D. The disciples asked a number of questions: (Luke 21:7; Matthew 24:3; Mark 13:3)

1. When will the _____ be destroyed?

2. What _____ will come before the destruction?:

3. What will be the signs of the end of the world?

E. Christ's answer focused on the third question and relates to the prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27. While Daniel does prophecy the destruction of the Temple, the greater focus is on the "abomination of desolation" Christ's answer focused on this second "destruction" of the temple and the _____events leading up to his _____.

F. The signs of the future destruction and the return of the Messiah:

1. There will be _____ Messiah's; don't believe them, Luke 21:8.

2. There will be _____, rumors of wars, earthquakes, pestilence, and signs in the heavens, Luke 21:9-11.

3. Before these things there will be persecution of Christians, Luke 21:12-19. **Matthew 24:13:** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved*. This is not talking about eternal salvation in Heaven but deliverance from the persecution of the Great Tribulation.

4. Jerusalem will be surrounded by _____, Luke 21:20 cf. Matthew 24:15. Those in Israel at that time are advised to run for their lives, Luke 21:21 ff. Jerusalem will be conquered by the _____, Luke 21:24.

5. There will be signs in the heavens, Luke 21:25-26.

6. There will be the _____ return of Christ, Luke 21:27-28 cf. Matthew 24:27-31.

7. When you see these things happen, you will know that your redemption is _____, Luke 21:28. This is referring to Christ's return to earth at the end of the Tribulation, not to the rapture of the church. When Christ returns we will be with Him as part of His army, not on earth waiting for Him, Revelation 19.

G. Now that Christ had revealed more details about his Second Coming and all the signs that will come before it, He paused to give practical exhortation to those who will be seeing those signs. He challenges them to be watchful, prepared, and faithful.

1. **Lesson from a Budding Fig Tree: Be _____**, Luke 21:29-32.

Luke 21:29-31 *And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; [30]When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. [31]So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*

a. Christ used a fig tree to illustrate His point to be watchful. The fig tree loses its leaves during the winter, and the first new leaves in spring announce the coming of summer.

b. Christ is saying that when people see the signs He talked about earlier, they will know that God's program will be completed quickly (within the seven year period we know as the Tribulation). Therefore, those who see those signs should be watching with expectation for Christ's Second Coming.

2. **Lesson from Noah's Day and a Parable: Be _____,** Matthew 24:36-25:13.

a. Christ said to remember what happened in the days of Noah. Noah was a preacher of righteousness who warned of God's coming judgment. But people ignored the warning, and when the flood came, they were taken away by the judgment. Christ said that if the generation that sees the signs ignores them and does not prepare for His coming, they will be swept away in judgment even as Noah's generation was.

b. No man knows the _____ or the hour of Christ's return, Matthew 24:36-51.

i. When He comes, there will be two in the field. One will be taken away in judgment; the other will be left to go into Messiah's kingdom.

ii. Two women will be grinding at a mill. One will be taken away in judgment and the other left.

c. The signs were to warn of the _____ of the Judge. The people should prepare themselves by putting their faith in Christ and be ready when he comes.

d. The parable of the ten virgins with oil lamps, Matthew 25:1-13.

i. In New Testament times, the groom went to the bride's parents' house accompanied by friends to get his bride. The bride and her friends would be waiting for the groom. They would then return to the groom's house for the wedding.

ii. In Christ's parable, the bridegroom arrived at midnight and announced his arrival. Some of the bridesmaids were _____ with their lamps filled with oil and went out to meet him. Others were foolish and were unprepared to meet the bridegroom.

iii. Some were prepared and some were not. Therefore, people should be ready for the Lord's return at any time.

3. P**arable of the Talents: Be Faithful**, Matthew 25:14-30.

a. Christ told of a master who gave his servants talents and went away. He returned "after a _____ time" and called them into account for their use of the talents.

b. This was a warning to be faithful during the Lord's _____ because there will be an accounting at His return.

Note: This parable is almost identical to Luke 19:11-28, the parable of the pounds (both pounds and talents refer to money). That parable was given to correct the idea that the kingdom would begin soon.

Summary: The signs announce the coming of a Judge, and they should produce watchfulness, preparedness, and faithfulness.

H. The Second Coming: Judgment Day, Matthew 25:31-46.

1. Most Christians think of the Second Coming as the Rapture (a glorious, comforting event), but, the Second Coming is God's _____ and most awesome _____. When He comes back and touches down on Earth to set up his kingdom, He will come as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will then _____ the nations to determine who will be allowed into His millennial Kingdom.

2. Christ pictures Himself seated on His throne of glory. He gathers all the living before Him. Without speaking a word, He divides them into two groups.

3. He puts the ones He calls _____ on His right hand. (These have received Christ.) He puts the ones He calls _____ on His left hand. (These have rejected Christ.)

4. He turns to those on His right hand and says, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34.

5. Then He turns to those on His left hand and says, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41.

6. Those who have believed on Christ and lived righteous lives will not only go away to eternal life, but will also inherit a _____. Those who have not believed are _____ (their bad deeds condemn them as sinners).

Summary: Christ told of destruction, wars, and persecution to come but also shared the hope of His return.