

Prophecy Sermon #2

Turn to Matthew 24 and Revelation – We find Jesus' Sermon on the Mount of Olives
– called the Olivet Discourse

The atmosphere of this discourse is Jewish

The book of Matthew was written to a Jewish audience

Vs. 16 – Judea

Vs. 20 – Sabbath

Vs. 15 – prophecies of Daniel referring to Israel

Not only to the Jew, but this is all future – this is yet to come

– this has not happened yet

Verse 3 is the question and chapters 24 and 25 give the answers to that question
of Jesus' coming – His Second Coming – to the earth – to rule and reign

This will not take place until after the 7-year Tribulation period

Before the 1,000-year reign – the Millennial Kingdom – “What shall be the sign of
Thy coming?”

Today we pick up today in the first half of the Tribulation Period

I've entitled today's message “The Gospel Cannot Be Stopped, Part II”

Matthew 24 – let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Matthew 24:3-14

Let us pray

You may be seated

The Gospel Cannot Be Stopped – and neither can Jesus

Jesus said you want to know about my coming – I'll tell you

Verses 5-7 have to do with bad things that will happen but they are not in themselves
signs of the end.”

1. Deception by false preachers
2. Dissension among the nations
3. Worldwide devastation

We have some of these things in our time, but not like it will be in the Tribulation Period

When we have this, we have death – worldwide chaos

These are but labor pains and Matthew writes of more labor pains (vs. 9)

Verse 9 – “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake.”

4. Severe Persecutions – by the ungodly world

More than ever before in history, God’s people will be treated in an unholy way

Verses 9 – “will deliver” means to be given over

– used in a technical sense means to be arrested

After being in custody, believers will suffer extreme tribulation including murder

Mark 13:9, “But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for My sake . . .”

“The persecution will not be directed so much against believers themselves as against God, whom they serve and represent. The unbelieving world will intensify its hatred of God, and because it cannot attack Him directly it will fiercely attack His people.”

God’s people will be hated and hounded

Martyrdom

They will lay down their lives

Religion is not much when it doesn’t cost anything

Being identified with Christ’s name will cost believers their freedom and their lives – baptism today

Let me show you the persecuted

Turn to Revelation 6:9-11

Revelation 7:9-14 – persecution like we have never seen before

These will be people of the Tribulation – those converted to Christ that are persecuted

Many will be saved through the preaching of the two witnesses sent by God in

Revelation 11!

And when they are murdered and lay bloody in the streets of Jerusalem, the whole world rejoices like it's Christmastime.

Revelation 11:3, "And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

Now look back to Matthew 24:10, "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."

Look at the next indication

5. Apostasy – defection of false believers – abandonment of what one has professed

A departure from one's faith

This is a consequence of the 4th labor pain

As persecution begins and intensifies, believers are arrested and killed

Many supposed Christians will defect

Great apostasy – many will turn to the one world religion

Ecumenical Movement – one world religion – Revelation 17

II Thessalonians 2:3, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."

Although many have an outward identification with Christ, they will prove by their desertion that they never belonged to Christ

They forsake Christ, church – families, Bible

We live in a day of sham Christianity – God is going to sift out the tares

Now, notice **three reasons for this mass desertion of Christ**

1. (vs. 10) These are not "Peters" – these are "Judases"

The sham Christians will be found out

A lot of people join the crowd but when they lose their popularity or the times are tough, they abandon ship like they never belonged

They will fall away

I John 2:19, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

Jesus' words in Matthew 10 are more clear now – look with me

Matthew 10:32-36

Parents will turn their children into the authorities

And children will turn their parents in

Brother – brother

Church member to church member

II Timothy 2:12, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us."

The text teaches us that not all professing Christians are authentic

Now notice what these false professors do – verse 10

They will deliver up, betray one another and shall hate

God's people will be betrayed by those who once sat on the pew with them

Rat them out

Point them out

Do it to save their own skins

They will turn into informers and persecutors

Mark 13:12, "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death."

Not only within the churches but also within families

They will betray their church members and their families and give them up to martyrdom

First reason – for mass destruction – false professions – they profess, but do not possess Christianity

The second reason is because of . . .

2. False Prophets (vs. 11)

Some will desert because the cost is too high,
But they will be deceived about the Gospel
The false prophets will join with the false christs
They will teach things that seem true but are in fact satanic
The world will be filled with false religions as never seen before until the
very end with all kinds of signs and wonders
Satan will come as angel of light (Revelation 17)
The great harlot – false religions of the world
Will prostitute herself – a counterfeit gospel – people will believe
the lie
The book of Revelation is the revealing of – Jesus Christ – and any
religion that removes Him as center is off target
– that removes Him as God is Antichrist

3. The 3rd reason is that sin is fun and attractive (vs. 12)

Vs. 12 – sin is increased
Church is gone
The Holy Spirit (restrainer) has lifted His hands
People's love for right, truth, and the things of God grows cold
There will be a disregard for God's Word
Evil will multiply – rapidly and unashamedly
It will be aggressive and diabolical
Sin will be flaunted now – that is taking place during our time
Heart grows – cold to the things of God? Do we love God like we used to?
You know what Jesus said about that—“Repent”
Repent – Jesus said – to the Ephesus church – you have abandoned your
first love
Our prayer should be “Oh, God, stir that fire of love in our hearts to love
You again”
Folks, we must go back to our roots – to the very time of our salvation
– why God commands us to observe Communion

Such gross evil will draw away the heart of men
Sin will run free, unbridled, and unchecked
It will be a tidal wave – engulfing mankind in corruption – looseness
But verse 13 teaches some will make it

Vs. 13 – The test of reality is the test of endurance

Flash-in-a-pan believer

It's not one's endurance that saves a person

Too many teach that we keep our salvation

If our salvation depended on us – none of us would be saved

The Bible teaches we are kept by the power of God

I Peter 1:5, “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

John 5:24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, ‘He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.’”

We are not saved by endurance but by Christ

Jesus is the Savior of souls

Verse 13 is not speaking about the redemption but the rescue of souls in
the midst of the Tribulation Period

But endurance will be the proof of reality that he is saved – Matthew 24:21-22

If those days were not shortened – no flesh would survive – or would be “saved”

(same word as in vs. 13) – 24:22

Believer's eternal security is in Christ

Endurance demonstrates salvation

I John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

If a person has only a profession, he won't last long – time won't allow for it
When a person is saved, radical change

II Peter 2:20-22, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, 'The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.'"

He who goes back like a dog to vomit or hog to wallow gives evidence that he was never born of the Word and Spirit of God

Verse 14 – Who will preach the gospel after all the saints are gone in the Rapture?

Two witnesses of Revelation 11

144,000 Jews of Revelation 7

The declaration of the Gospel to the whole world

Vs. 14 – when that angel flies in the sky – Revelation 14:6

On that last worldwide Gospel crusade and tour

Then shall come the abomination of desolation

"Despite the deception of false christs and false teachers, the unparalleled warfare and pestilence and disaster, the fierce persecution of the saints, and the defection of false believers, the **gospel of Christ's kingdom** will continue to be proclaimed. Despite the Antichrist's tyrannical rule and hell's belching out its demons to wreak havoc on earth, the Lord Jesus Christ will not be without a witness." (MacArthur, pg. 29)

Revelation 7:9 says – “. . . I beheld . . . a great multitude, which no man could number . . .
.”

The Gospel still works and it cannot be stopped

Now, next week, we will see the Abomination of Desolation and the Antichrist

Let us stand for closing invitation

Every eye closed

No one looking around

Believers, have our hearts grown cold to the things of God?

Has sin entered in?

Are we watching and listening to false preachers and teachers?

Are we really saved?

Am I in the faith or is it my parent's faith?

Am I a genuine believer?

Have I been born again by the Spirit of God?

Is there any evidence of God working in my life?

Do I deny Christ when opportunities present themselves?

Observable results – We understand the easiness of our faith in Christ in America

That persecution will separate the real believers

We examined our own faith to see if we are truly born again