

OVERVIEW:

As followers of Jesus we should want to know what Jesus taught about the end of the world. However, too often we get bogged down in the parts concerning the details about the end and miss the point. Jesus is interested in how the end of the world affects our present lives as much as he is in explaining current events and how they relate to the end. We often care about what God will do in the end. He cares more about what we will do up until the end.

DISCUSSION:

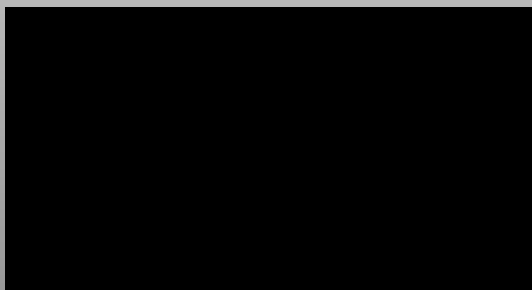
1. As it pertains to the end of the world, Christians fall on a scale from those who tend to trivialize events and those who tend to sensationalize events. What has been your experience?
2. Jesus had an explanation about the end of the world. However, he spent more time talking about the implication of the end for our present lives. Why do we tend to do the opposite?
3. We try to avoid some of the things Jesus spoke of at all cost. Is it encouraging or discouraging that some of the issues we try to avoid are part of the events leading up to the end of the world, rather than issues that have social or political solutions?
4. Jesus warned against spiritual deception. 2 Timothy 4:3 says people seek teachers who will tell them what they want to hear. Why is that the case? Has that been your experience?
5. The faith that Jesus spoke of is at times inconvenient and demanding. Do people want that, or do they tend to prefer a convenient, easy faith? Have we been insulated from religious persecution and become too pampered in our faith?
6. Does your understanding of the end times encourage an attitude of extreme engagement in the world or a desire for extreme escapism? How should the future be affecting our present faith?
7. Jesus said that the end would be like the days of Noah: everyone so caught up in the day-to-day that they have no time for faith. What in your day-to-day life keeps your eyes off more important things?
8. What are some practical things we as the Church can do to be able to approach the end of the world with hope and peace rather than fear and dread? What areas of your life require greater faithfulness and fruitfulness?
9. What stood out to you most about today's message?

APPLICATION:

Jesus told a series of stories in Matthew 24:45-51 and Matthew 25 about how to live until the end. The application is to resolve to live a life where our mantra becomes this: *Until He returns, I will not be fearful. I will not be fretful. I will be faithful, and I will be fruitful.*

MEMORIZATION:

Matthew 25:23 (NIV) "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"



1. [Group]



2.

If we take anything Jesus said seriously, we have to take everything Jesus said seriously.

3. [Group]

Those who trivialize
&
Those who sensationalize

4.

Jesus' explanation about the future has a direct implication on our present.

5. [Group]

We should not concern ourselves with speculation about Jesus' explanation of the end of the world but rather the implication His explanation has in our present lives.

6.

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

Matthew 24:1 NIV

7.

"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

Matthew 24:2 NIV

8.

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?"

Matthew 24:3 NIV

9.

Prophecies by Jesus:

1. His Words Everlasting - Matt. 24:35
2. Mary's Legacy - Matt. 26:11-13
3. A Disciple's Betrayal - Matt. 26:21
4. Peter's Denial - Matt. 26:33-34
5. Sufferings & Authorities - Matt. 26
6. Die in Jerusalem at Passover - Matt. 16:21, 26:2
7. Resurrection on 3rd Day - John 2:18-22

10.

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one **deceives** you.

Matthew 24:4 NIV

11.

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, **to suit their own desires**, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears **want to hear**.

2 Timothy 4:3 NIV

12.

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.

Matthew 24:6 NIV

13.

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

Matthew 24:7 NIV

14.

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Matthew 24:7 NIV

15.

All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Matthew 24:8 NIV

16.

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

Matthew 24:9 NIV

17.

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

Matthew 24:10-11 NIV

18.

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:12-13 NIV

19.

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 NIV

20.

The Antichrist & A Time of Great Tribulation

21.

"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.'

Matthew 24:29 NIV

22.

"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:30 NIV

23.

As it was in the **days of Noah**, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man...

Matthew 24:37-38 NIV

24.

That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

“**Therefore** keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:39,42 NIV

25.

So **you** also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when **you** do not expect him...

Matthew 24:44 NIV

26.

We are interested in what God is going to do in the end... He is more interested with what we will do until the end.

27.

Until He returns...I will not be fearful. I will not be fretful. I will be faithful and I will be fruitful.

28.

29.