

## "The Olivet Discourse"

### Matthew 24-25

#### Part 11

**Introduction:** Tonight as we return to our study of the Olivet Discourse we will once again look at the "birth pains" which Jesus speaks of which will unfold before His second coming and the birth of His Kingdom. Jesus disciples had asked Him 3 questions in Matthew 24:3.

#### **Matthew 24:3**

*<sup>3</sup> And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

His disciples wanted to know when the Temple would be destroyed and what would be the signs of Jesus second coming and the signs of the end of the age. Jesus never answered their first question about the Temple but He did answer the second two and the answers He gives makes up the Olivet Discourse. The "birth pains" which Jesus refers to in Matthew 24:8 are the events which will unfold on the earth following the rapture of the church leading up to the second coming of Jesus and the establishment of His Kingdom. So far we have considered several of the "birth pains".

#### **I. Jesus' Answer to the Disciple's Questions**

##### **Matthew 24:4-44**

##### **Part 8**

##### **A. Great deception. (Matthew 24:4-5)**

**B. Civil unrest. (Matthew 24:6-7a)**

**C. Great catastrophes (Matthew 24:7b) which include the 3 sets of judgments in Revelation.**

**D. Persecution. (Matthew 24:9)**

**E. Betrayal. (Matthew 24:10-12)**

Now last week in our study we were looking at the betrayal which Jesus speaks of in verses 10-12.

### **Notice Matthew 24:9-12**

Verse 10 is directly connected to verse 9. In verse 9 we saw that there would be terrible persecution which would come upon all those who were followers of Jesus Christ. Then as we read on to verse 10 we see that many will be offended by the persecution and will betray one another. Last week I told you that during the Great Tribulation there will be many people saved and mixed within the true believers will be many false converts. This parable told by Jesus helps us see how Satan will plant false converts within the true believers.

### **Matthew 13:24-30**

*<sup>24</sup> Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*

*<sup>25</sup> But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

*<sup>26</sup> But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.*

*<sup>27</sup> So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?*

*<sup>28</sup> He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

*<sup>29</sup> But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

*<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Today there are false converts within the church and in will be the same during the tribulation. Let me show you another picture which Jesus paints of these false converts.

### **Mark 4:1-6**

*And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.*

*<sup>2</sup> And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,*

*<sup>3</sup> Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:*

*<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.*

*<sup>5</sup> And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:*

***6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.***

Then Jesus tells the meaning of this parable.

**Mark 4:13-17**

*13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?*

*14 The sower soweth the word.*

*15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

***16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;***

***17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.***

They will be tares among the wheat. When the persecution of verse 9 comes upon the followers of Christ in the tribulation those who are false converts will defect. They will want nothing to do with the persecution because it will mean death for those who follow Jesus. But not only will they defect they will also betray those who they know are true believers. They will give addresses, names and even specific locations of those who are true believers just to save their own lives. This betrayal will find its way right into families.

**Mark 13:12**

*<sup>12</sup> 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.*

**Luke 21:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.*

*<sup>17</sup> And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.*

This helps us to see a little more detail about how difficult life will be for followers of Jesus during the tribulation.

Now last week I told you there are 3 reasons the false converts will turn from following Jesus during this time.

- 1. The heat of the persecution. The cost of discipleship will be far greater than they will be willing to pay.(Matthew 24:9-10)**
- 2. The deceit of false teachers.(Matthew 24:11)**

**Notice Matthew 24:11**

There will be many who will be lured away by the deceptive teaching of the false teachers.

**Matthew 24:24**

*<sup>24</sup> For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

The deception of the false teachers will be so great that if it was not for God's protection of the saved they also would be deceived. That

tells us that the "wonders" which are done by the false teachers will be extremely convincing even to the point that without the power and the insight from the Lord, all the people of the tribulation would follow them.

Just an added note here there will also be the lure and the deceit of this world's goods.

### **Revelation 18:21, 23**

*<sup>21</sup> And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.*

*<sup>23</sup> And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; **for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.***

False converts will be deceived by the riches of this world and will trade an eternity with God for a short time to live for this world.

### **3. The love of iniquity.**

#### **Notice Matthew 24:12**

This verse is so important in helping us to understand the betrayal of the tribulation. Here we see that "iniquity" shall abound or in other words it will multiply greatly during the tribulation. But we need to understand the meaning of the word "iniquity". It means "lawlessness" or in other words it is a reference to "people who live as though there is no Bible". We see evidence of an increase in lawlessness today within our society and it may well be the beginning of that which will exist

during the tribulation. Let me show you another place where we see Jesus make a reference to lawlessness.

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

*<sup>21</sup> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

*<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

*<sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

The end of verse 23 means "you who live like there is no law or no Bible".

Let's get our thoughts back to Matthew 24 again. Within verse 12 Jesus is telling His listeners that during the tribulation there will be many who will turn away from following Him because they will be love sin more than they will desire to follow Him. These people will see the escalation of iniquity during the tribulation and will walk away from Jesus to enjoy sin for a short season.

Now when this happens the love of many will grow cold. That explains why they will be able to betray their own family members and will hand them over to be executed. The compassion and the love will have grown cold.

### **2 Timothy 3:1-7**

*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

<sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

<sup>3</sup> Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

<sup>4</sup> Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

<sup>5</sup> Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

<sup>6</sup> For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

<sup>7</sup> Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Here Paul gives us a really detailed description of what society will be like during the tribulation. Many will have a form of godliness but they will not be saved. They will love sin's pleasures more than they will love God. Therefore, they will deny Christ under the persecution and will give themselves over to the pleasures of this world.

In the midst of all of this the love of the people will grow cold. This is a frightening revelation. This means the feelings of compassion will cease to exist. That is why people will be able to betray one another.

I don't want to repeat too much of what we cover in our other studies but let me show you exactly what will be happening.

The people of the anti-christ's kingdom will be guilty of suppressing the Truth of God. They will hear the testimony of the 144,000 Jewish missionaries and they will also hear the testimony of the 2 witnesses.

But they will reject their preaching and so they will suppress God's Truth.

### **Romans 1:18**

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

The results are also found in Romans 1.

### **Romans 1:28-32**

*<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind**, to do those things which are not convenient;*

*<sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

*<sup>30</sup> Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

*<sup>31</sup> Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

*<sup>32</sup> Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

The coldness in the hearts of the people during the tribulation will be due to God giving many over to a "reprobate mind" because they will have suppressed the Truth.

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Matthew 24:13**

Here we see a contrast. The contrast is between the false convert and the true believer. This verse helps us to see that the mark of a true believer is someone who will be true to their faith to the end.

**Matthew 10:22**

*<sup>22</sup> And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

**Now let me explain to you that it is not the endurance which saves the believer but it is the endurance which gives proof of true salvation.**

Let me take you one more time to the parable of the sower.

**Luke 8:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup> Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*

*<sup>12</sup> Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

*<sup>13</sup> They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

*<sup>14</sup> And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*

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<sup>15</sup> *But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and **bring forth fruit with patience.***

God gives the grace to His children so that we can endure the trials and the storms of this life. True believers will endure to the end.