

## "The Olivet Discourse"

### Matthew 24-25

#### Part 12

**Introduction:** Tonight as we come back to our study of the Olivet Discourse we will finish our look at the "birth pains" which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:8. Let us remember that His disciples had asked Him 3 questions in Matthew 24:3 and it was Jesus' response to two of their questions which gives to us this study of the Olivet Discourse. They wanted to know the signs of His coming and the signs of the end of the age. They were living in great anticipation of the coming Kingdom which the Old Testament prophets had frequently spoken of.

#### **Luke 19:11**

*<sup>11</sup> And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.*

While Jesus is speaking His disciples are on the edge of their seats. They are looking to be freed from the Roman Empire which they most likely believed to be the suffering of the Day of the Lord which the prophets spoke of. John the Baptist had come and preached that the Kingdom of God was near and Jesus even declared that the Kingdom was near.

#### **Mark 1:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*

<sup>15</sup> *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

When Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God was at hand He was declaring that the King was in their presence and that King was Himself.

The disciples desired the Kingdom so much that everything they heard in their minds pointed to the Kingdom being set up at the time Jesus was with them. They could not see the Church Age which we live in today.

Let me review over the "birth pains" which we have already considered.

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

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

#### **Part 9**

**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)**

Last week we stopped with the "birth pain" of betrayal and then we touched on Matthew 24:13.

### **Notice Matthew 24:9-13**

As we said there will be great persecution during the tribulation and when that happens the false believer will be separated from the true believer. The false believer will defect and will betray those who are

true believers. There are really 3 reasons listed here which will cause many to walk away from following Jesus.

1. Persecution.
2. Deception of false teachers.
3. Abounding iniquity.

These 3 things will separate the false believers from the true believers. Then Jesus speaks of a contrast between false believers and true believers.

### **Notice Matthew 24:13**

Here Jesus tells us that the person who endures to the end will be saved. Now last week I told you that we are not saved by our endurance but our endurance is proof of our salvation.

### **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.*

This is the same idea here in Matthew 10:22. The idea is the mark of true salvation is someone that stays true to their faith no matter what comes their way. There is another thought here which I feel that we need to consider before we move on to the other "birth pains".

If you have ever wondered how you would do if your life or your families lives were threatened because of your devotion to God, you can rest assured that if that times comes there will be sufficient grace and faith to get you through.

Those who are true believers will stand true in the midst of persecution when their faith is tested. This is because there are

spiritual provisions for those who are called to suffer for their faith. If you are called to suffer through persecution you will be able to endure to the end.

**a. There is grace.**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

<sup>8</sup> *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, which it might depart from me.*

<sup>9</sup> *And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

**b. There is faith.**

**Hebrews 11:35-39**

<sup>35</sup> *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

<sup>36</sup> *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

<sup>37</sup> *They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

<sup>38</sup> *(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

<sup>39</sup> *And these all, having obtained a good report **through faith**, received not the promise:*

Here is a list of people who suffered and obtained a good report for their faith in the midst of all their suffering.

**Notice the words of Corrie Ten Boom:**

*"When I was a little girl," I said, "I went to my father and said, 'Daddy, I am afraid that I will never be strong enough to be a martyr for Jesus Christ.'*

*"Tell me,' Father said, 'when you take a train trip from Haarlem to Amsterdam, when do I give you the money for the ticket? Three weeks before?'*

*"No, Daddy, you give me the money for the ticket just before we get to the train.'*

*"That is right,' my father said, 'and so it is with God's strength. Our wise Father in heaven knows when you are going to need things too. Today you do not need the strength to be a martyr; but as soon as you are called upon for the honor of facing death for Jesus, He will supply the strength you need - just in time.*

**F. Proclamation**

**Notice Matthew 24:14**

Here we see some very interesting Truth spoken by our Lord. Jesus says that before His return to set up His Kingdom the Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the ENTIRE world.

Now there is something I need to be clear about here because I have heard people make reference to this verse but they had the context completely wrong. I remember someone years ago others that the rapture cannot happen until the Gospel is proclaimed throughout the ENTIRE world. There are 2 major problems with that teaching:

1. This has absolutely nothing to do with the rapture. The rapture will have already happened before this verse is fulfilled. Jesus is not talking about the rapture but He is speaking of His second coming to earth at the end of the Great Tribulation.
2. The second problem is that the Gospel of the Kingdom is not the Gospel which we know today.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is not the Gospel of 1 Corinthians 15.

### **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;*

*<sup>2</sup> By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

*<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

*<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

The Gospel which we know today is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Let us remember that the word "Gospel" means good news. So in the tribulation there will be another message of good news BESIDES the good news that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. So, what is the Gospel of the Kingdom? It is the good news that the King is coming and He is going to establish His

Kingdom on this earth. People will not be saved by another Gospel. But the people who do get saved will believe the Gospel of the Kingdom and they will look for the return of the King. People will still need to place their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. That will not change.

### **John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

### **Acts 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Let's now consider how the Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed in the ENTIRE world.

The Gospel will be preached by 3 different means.

- 1. The 144,000 Jewish men who will be missionaries during the tribulation period.**
- 2. The 2 faithful witnesses of Revelation 11.**

Before I give to you the third means I need to just remind you of how difficult the ministry of these men will be. They will be preaching in the face of the anti-christ. The world will be under his rule and the lost world will follow him and show loyalty to him. These men will be called to proclaim the Truth of God's Word in the midst of a kingdom that is full of lies and is completely anti-God.

- 3. The angel of Revelation 14.**

### **Revelation 14:6**

*<sup>6</sup> And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to **every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,***

The end of the Great Tribulation cannot come until this Gospel of the Kingdom is preached to the entire world. During the tribulation everyone will hear the announcement that the King is coming to establish His Kingdom on this earth.

**Notice Matthew 24:14 again.**

**Conclusion:**

Today the angels are not permitted to proclaim the Gospel. That responsibility has been entrusted to you and me. It is not just the Pastors who are to share the Gospel but it is to be shared by the entire body of Christ.

Let me show you how serious this responsibility is for you and me.

**Ezekiel 3:17-19**

*<sup>17</sup> Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.*

*<sup>18</sup> When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.*

*<sup>19</sup> Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

**"Letter from an atheist to a believer."**

*You are really convinced that you've got all the answers. You've really got yourself tricked into believing that you are 100 percent right. Well, let me tell you just one thing. Do you consider yourself to be compassionate (toward) other humans? If you're right about God, as you say you are, and you believe that, then how can you sleep at night?*

*When you speak with me, you are speaking with someone who you believe is walking directly into eternal damnation, into an endless onslaught of horrendous pain which your loving God created, yet you stand by and do nothing.*

*If you believed one bit that thousands every day were falling into an eternal and unchangeable fate, you should be running the streets mad with rage at their blindness. That's equivalent to standing on a street corner and watching every person that passes you walk blindly directly into the path of a bus and die, yet you stand idly by and do nothing. You're just twiddling your thumbs, happy in the knowledge that one day that Walk signal will shine your way across the road.*

*Think about it. Imagine the horrors hell must have in store if the Bible is true. You're just going to allow that to happen and not care about saving anyone but yourself? If you're right, then you're an uncaring, unemotional, and purely selfish person that has no right to talk about subjects such as love and caring.*

**Notice the words of Spurgeon:**

*"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and*

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*unprayed for."*