

A note from Kathy

How well do you heed words of warning?

There are times when ignoring a warning can simply mean we run a bit later because we did not believe a sign.

There are other signs that demand our attention.



Matthew 24 is a chapter filled with important warning signs that we would do well to consider carefully. Read this chapter at least twice before reading the questions below. Pray, asking God to open your eyes and ears to hear from him.

Observation

1. You might want to read Mark 13:1-37 to go along with this chapter. It is a parallel version of the teaching of Jesus that day. What were the disciples admiring as they left the temple that day?
2. What did Jesus tell them that had to be hard for them to hear and understand?
3. Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives to rest. What information did the disciples come and ask him to share with them?
4. What was the warning given in verse 4? What does it mean to be deceived?
5. List the events of verses 5-8; Jesus called these “the beginning of birth pains.”
6. As if all this wasn’t bad enough, what else did he tell them to expect in verse 9?
7. In verses 10-14, Jesus listed the degree to which the people would fall into apostasy. What did he say would happen?
8. Is all lost? Are we without hope? Do not miss verses 13-14.

9. What is the culminating key sign of the end of the age given in verse 15?
10. In order to gain a greater understanding of verse 15, look up 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.
What are we warned of here?
What is the event that will be a sign of the end?
Where will this event take place?
11. What are those who live in that area to do when this event takes place?
12. According to verses 16-22, what will things be like at that time?
13. In verses 23-26, believers will be told many things that sound like good news; what are they really? What did Jesus say about all the events of that day and time?
14. Some will say in that day that they have a special revelation about the Lord's return, but will we need to go and check it out?
15. What did he compare his return to in verse 27?
16. What unusual phenomena will take place at that time (verse 29)?
17. How will his return differ from the first time he came? How did Jesus come the first time?
18. Why do you suppose the nations of the earth will mourn at that time? What will be over when the Lord returns? What will they see that they had previously missed?
19. Jesus used an illustration from nature; if he had been from Oklahoma, he might have chosen the redbud tree. What are the facts of this illustration? Those who lived in Israel at that time would have been very familiar with this tree. What was Jesus trying to help them understand?
20. There is only one who knows the appointed time for all these events. Who is it?
21. Jesus compares the time of judgment in Noah's day to the events that will take place at the end of the age. What was happening in the days just prior to Noah and his family entering the ark?

22. Notice the swift timing of the events in verses 40-44. What are we (Believer's) to do?
23. Jesus gave them another word picture in order to help them see more clearly the need for preparation and wisdom. List all the facts you can find about the servant in verses 45-51.

Application

1. Jesus warned his disciples not to let anyone deceive them by claiming to be Christ. How do you suppose this could happen? Is this warning one we need to heed today?
2. The disciples asked Jesus what would be the sign that would mark the end of the age. Do any of these signs sound familiar? When you hear of these things happening around the world, what do you think? Do you sense a bit of complacency in the world because it has not happened yet?
3. Jesus said this would not be the end, but simply "the beginning of birth pains." How do birth pains start? Normally what are the characteristics of birth pains?
4. In spite of all the dreadful things that will come at the end of the age, notice the promise given in verse 13. The word that is translated "saved" literally means to keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction. What does knowing this promise do for you? As you think about this promise, what do you see about the character of God?
5. In this chapter we see that the persecution of those who profess faith in Christ will be great. Believers will be hated, persecuted and even put to death. Apostasy will run rampant and many will turn away from the very faith that would save them. They will hate and betray each other simply to save themselves. Many will be deceived, and wickedness will increase. Oh friend, can you see it is the increase of sin that causes them to turn away from loving the One True God. Are you busy today sharing truth with others while there is still time? Who is the next person you would love to see come to a saving knowledge of God? Do you feel a sense of urgency? If so, what are you doing about it?

6. This “abomination of desolation” is a reference to the unthinkable tragedy of an idol or image of the Antichrist, which will be placed in the temple for all to worship during the last days. This act of rebellion will be the final act of wickedness that will bring judgment. How are believers to respond to all that will be going on at that time?
7. Verse 30 tells us that the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. What is the response of the nations at that point? Why do you suppose they will respond like this? What will they realize? According to Matthew 24:30 and 2 Peter 3:10-13 (especially verse 12), what are the only two responses to Christ’s return?
8. What will become of believers at that time? If you are a follower of Christ, how does knowing this make you feel?
9. Jesus used an illustration from nature to paint a picture so that the disciples and all believers would have a greater understanding of the events that would one day take place. It has been 2000+ years since he spoke these words; does that cause you to doubt or watch closely?
10. Write out the promise of verse 35. Does knowing this give you peace? What does it say about Jesus’ authority?
11. Both the days of Noah and the end of the age are times of judgment. The Holy Spirit patiently pursues men and women, but he will not strive with men forever. Notice the illustration Jesus gave in verses 37-42; does everyone have the same amount of time? No one knows their lifespan. No one knows the number of days left for them. If you have not invited Christ into your life to be your Lord, why not stop right now and talk to God. Ask him to forgive your sins and come into your life and be your Savior. He is only a prayer away.
12. The people of Noah’s day were no different than people today. Their thoughts were fixed on the matters of everyday life much more than finding truth. What sort of things were they preoccupied by? What occupies your thoughts?
13. When the Son of Man returns, what unusual events will occur? Can you imagine what will be said? How do you suppose people will try to explain it?
14. Jesus told a parable of a home owner and a thief. What was the homeowner unaware of? We know Jesus is sharing truth so that many will be ready. What are we to be busy

doing while we await his return? What is the work that we as believers have been given to do while there is still time (Matthew 28:19-20)?

15. Look back over the list you wrote that described the two servants in verses 45-51. Notice the fate of these two servants. Is the Lord speaking to you as you consider these two men?
16. Which of God's character qualities have you seen in Matthew 24?
17. Do these character qualities bring you hope or cause you to worry?