

Matthew 24 & 25 ENCORE

- 1) Matthew 24-25 is called "The Olivet Discourse" because Jesus taught His followers from the Mount of Olives (Matthew 24: 3). The discussion which led to the Olivet Discourse began as Jesus and His disciples left the Temple. Jesus made a shocking statement regarding the Temple "Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24: 2). The Jerusalem Temple was an awesome structure; it had taken forty-six years to build (John 2: 20). It probably would have been hard for the disciples to imagine that awesome structure being destroyed. The Temple was destroyed in AD 70 by the Roman army; just as Jesus prophesied. Interestingly Jesus also said that the 'abomination of desolation' would stand in the holy place (in the Temple) during the Tribulation Period. That means that the Temple which was destroyed will have to be rebuilt, unfortunately the Muslim "Dome of the Rock" is now built on the Temple Mount. How likely is it that a Jewish Temple will be constructed on the Temple Mount in the near future?
- 2) The "abomination of desolation" will likely be a graven image or an idol likeness of the antichrist. People will then be told to worship this image and the antichrist it represents. Why did Jesus (and Daniel under inspiration) call this thing an "abomination of desolation"?
- 3) The disciples asked Jesus "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age" (Matt 24: 3 NKJV)? They were basically asking "when is the end of the world going to take place?" Why are people (generally) intrigued by "end times" or apocalyptic discussions, movies or books?
- 4) The Olivet discourse is a message primarily for Jewish believers (those who will be alive during the Tribulation Period) and must be studied with that truth in view. However there are many good applications for us today. Read the following passages and discuss the common application (or lesson) Jesus presents His disciples.
 - a) The parable of the fig tree (Matthew 24: 32-33).
 - b) What happened to everyone but Noah's family during the flood (Matthew 24: 37-41)?
 - c) The thief (Matthew 24: 42-44; Revelation 16: 15).
 - d) The wise servant (Matthew 24: 45-47).
 - e) The evil servant (Matthew 24: 48-50)?
 - f) The doorkeeper (Mark 13: 33-37)?
 - g) The parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25: 1-12).
 - h) The parable of the talents (Matthew 25: 14-30).
 - i) What is the main point of all these examples?
- 5) What would you do if you knew Jesus was coming tomorrow?
- 6) What would you not do if you knew Jesus was coming today?
- 7) If you knew for certain that Jesus would return in five years what changes would you make?
- 8) What did Jesus tell His disciples in John 14: 1-3?
- 9) What application did He leave us with in Mark 13: 34-37?