

## “The Follow Jesus Project”

**Monday, Oct. 19**

**Scripture to read:** Matthew 24:1-14, Mark 13:1-13,  
Luke 21:5-19

**Thoughts to consider:**

Jesus introduced the discussion about “end times” (eschatology). This led to some questions asked by the disciples. Some scholars believe the disciples asked two and some three. It is unlikely that the disciples, at this time, equated Jesus’ return with the end of the world. There is great debate over the topic. You may know some premillennialists and some postmillennialists. Jesus’ answers to these questions are intermingled and can be confusing. Our task is to be faithful, to be ready, and to do our best to see that the gospel is “preached in the whole world.” Although persecution and death may come (and they did), God is in control and the ultimate outcome will be eternal victory.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**

**Scriptures to read:** Matthew 24:15-22, Matthew 24:32-35  
Mark 13:14-20, Mark 13: 28-31, Luke 21:20-24  
Luke 21:29-33

**Thoughts to consider:**

Jesus’ disciples asked Jesus concerning His return and the end of the age. The order of Jesus’ answers is a bit confusing. The verses for today seem to concern the destruction of Jerusalem which would occur in 70 A. D. When an army surrounds a city, it is natural to seek protection in the walls, but Jesus directed His followers to seek safety in the mountains as the city was doomed to destruction. The disciples would be alive at the time of this destruction. Jesus then gave them comfort in the words, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” We should take comfort in that knowledge today even though we may lose heart at the daily news.

**Wednesday, Oct. 21**

**Scriptures to read:** Matthew 24:23-31, Matthew 24:36-51  
Mark 13:21-27, Mark 13:32-37, Luke 21:25-28  
Luke 21:34-36

**Thoughts to consider:**

These verses seem to describe Jesus’ return often referred to as the Second Coming. The sign of the Son of Man is His coming in the clouds. There will be no warning so that man can prepare. There will be no time to repent of evil and get right with God. Just as in the time of the flood, everything will be progressing in a normal fashion. Constant preparation and vigilance are the (continued next page)

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lessons to be learned. How exciting it would be to be alive on the earth when Jesus comes to claim His own. "In a moment; in the twinkling of an eye...." Thanks be to God! He gives the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thursday, Oct. 22**

**Scripture to read:** Matthew 25:1-13

***Thoughts to consider:***

Marriage customs in Jesus' day were very interesting and quite involved. After the wedding ceremony a feast was held at the home of the bride. This lasted for several days and afterward the bride was escorted to the home of the bridegroom. This procession was met by friends. These female friends welcomed the new couple. Sometimes this wait was quite long. They may have rested or even slept. The principal teaching of this parable is preparedness. We await the coming of our bridegroom, Christ. May we not be foolish and not be ready when He comes. We should be daily expectant of His return.

**Friday, Oct. 23**

**Scripture to read:** Matthew 25:14-30

***Thoughts to consider:***

Originally a talent was a unit of weight; it then became used as a coin. In present-day use a talent indicates a gift or ability. Firstly, we must realize that all talents are gifts from the Lord. Some people are blessed with more talents, but we all have some abilities. This parable does not teach that we must have great success in the use of our talents. Rather it teaches that we must not be negligent in employing all we have for the Master. The men in our Scripture verses were judged on the basis of faithfulness, not success. When we use what we have for the Master, He will bless us as He sees fit.

**Saturday, Oct. 24**

**Scripture to read:** Matthew 25:31-33

***Thoughts to consider:***

We have here a dramatic picture of the day of final judgment, which will take place when Jesus returns. This account underscores Jesus' royal authority and the absolute finality of His judgment. Jesus came to the world the first time as a lowly baby in a manger in a stable. At His return He will appear in His glory! He will be accompanied by all the angels of Heaven. Just as the heavenly host sang praises at His earthly birth, they will rejoice to see His final and total triumph over evil. Just as a shepherd can separate his sheep from his goats, so will Jesus know those who belong to Him and those who have not chosen Him. There will be no middle ground. There will be no shades of gray. On which side are you?

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