

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Olivet Discourse: Warnings & Promises March 24, 2024

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Dale explores Jesus' Olivet Discourse in Mark 13, where He warns His disciples about the signs of His second coming. Focusing on Christ's return should impact our lives today--how we view societal problems, knowing that Jesus will bring an eternal paradise; our integrity and behavior, motivating us to live as if Christ could return at any moment; and our ability to forgive and make peace, as we recognize that only God is fit to judge.

Scripture

Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle...The cloud of the LORD hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at night fire glowed inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys. Exodus 40:34, 38 (NLT)

When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of the LORD. 1 Kings 8:10-11 (NLT)

As Jesus was leaving the Temple that day, one of his disciples said, "Teacher, look at these magnificent buildings! Look at the impressive stones in the walls." Jesus replied, "Yes, look at these great buildings. But they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!" Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives across the valley from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him privately and asked him, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled?" Mark 13:1-4 NLT

"But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. 'Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Mark 13:24-37 (NIV)

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I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11-16 NIV

Let's Start

How do you view the Second Coming of Christ our Lord?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. How does anticipating Christ's return impact your daily choices and behaviors?
2. How can the knowledge of God's ultimate judgment affect our relationships and attitudes toward others, particularly those who have wronged us?
3. Pastor Dale said, "Anticipating and looking forward to the return of Christ is one of the most important ways you and I can overcome the threats and temptations of this world!" Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. How can we effectively communicate the hope of Christ's return to those who may not yet believe?
5. Pastor Dale talked about three differences that focusing on the return of Christ can make in your life today:
 - It will change how you view the problems that plague our society today!
 - It will significantly impact your integrity and behavior for the good.
 - It will impact your ability to forgive and make peace with people who have wronged you.

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Let's Act

Who can you invite to Wooddale's Easter services?

