

Ready, Set, Go,

Matthew 24:1-50

Intro: This passage is known as the Olivet Discourse. Few chapters in the Bible have called forth more disagreement among interpreters and its parallels in Mark 13 and Luke 21.

In Summary of this passage: The Disciples think of Jerusalem's destruction and the eschatological end as a single complex web of events.

- a. -This accounts for the form of their questions (vv 1-3) "Tell us," they said, "***when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?***"
- b. -Jesus warns that there will be delay before the End—a delay characterized by persecution and tribulation for his followers (vs. 4-28),
- c. -but with one particularly violent display of judgement in the Fall of Jerusalem (vv 15-21; Mark 13:14-20; Luke 21:20-24).
- d. -Immediately after the days of that sustained persecution characterizing the inter-advent period (AD 70 - Now) comes the Second Advent (vv 29-31).
- e. -Jesus gives a warning describing and entailing the whole tribulation period (all tribulation including the 7 year Great Tribulation), from the Ascension to second Advent (vv 32-35).
- f. -The tribulation period will certainly come, and the generation to which Jesus is speaking will experience all its features that point to the Lord's Return. But the exact time of that return no one but the Father knows (vv. 36-44).

The context of this passage comprises (chp. 24-25). Within this passage, Jesus answers the disciples questions, while the reader is exhorted to look forward to the Lord's return and meanwhile to live responsibly, faithfully, compassionately, and courageously while the Master is away (24:45-25:46).

I. READY

A. Prepare your House! Matt 24:42-44 (NIV) 42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

1 Thess 5:1-11 (NIV) 1 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. 7 For those

who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

B. Live in Light of His Coming: 2 Peter 3:8-12 (NIV) 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

2 Tim 4:6-8 (NIV) 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

To Illustrate this Jesus Tells the Parable of the Ten virgins in Matthew 25. 5 were ready 5 were not.

II. SET

A. Are you in it to win it? Matt 24:9-13 (NIV) 9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

2 Tim 3:1-5 (NIV) 1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.... **2 Tim 3:11-17 (NIV)** 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is

God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Have you made up your mind yet? Have you come to a resolve? Those who endure to the end will be saved.

Jim Elliot and Pete Fleming arrived in Ecuador on February 21, 1952, with the purpose of evangelizing Ecuador's Quechua Indians. They first stayed in Quito, and then moved to the jungle. They took up residence at the Shandia mission station. On October 8, 1953, he married fellow Wheaton alumna and missionary Elisabeth Howard. The wedding was a simple civil ceremony held in Quito. Ed and Marilou McCully were the witnesses. The couple then took a brief honeymoon to Panama and Costa Rica, then returned to Ecuador. Their only child, Valerie, was born February 27, 1955. While working with Quechua Indians, Elliot began preparing to reach the Huaorani.

Elliot and four other missionaries – Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming, and their pilot, Nate Saint – made contact from their airplane with the Huaorani using a loudspeaker and a basket to pass down gifts. After several months, the men decided to build a base a short distance from the Indian village, along the Curaray River. There they were approached one time by a small group of Huaorani and even gave an airplane ride to one curious Huaorani whom they called "George" (his real name was Naenkiwi). Encouraged by these friendly encounters, they began plans to visit the Huaorani, without knowing that Naenkiwi had lied to the others about the missionaries' intentions.[1] Their plans were preempted by the arrival of a larger group of about 10 Huaorani warriors, who killed Elliot and his four companions on January 8, 1956. Elliot's body was found downstream, along with those of the other men, except that of Ed McCully which was found even farther downstream.

His journal entry for October 28, 1949, expresses his belief that work dedicated to Jesus was more important than his life (see Luke 9:24 in the Bible). "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

III. GO

A. Are you on the Job? Matt 24:14 (NIV) 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Peter reiterates this: **2 Peter 3:11-12 (NIV)** 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.

B. What about those Gifts? Jesus illustrates this with the parable of the Talents and the Sheep and the Goats in Chapter 25. Paul shares concerning this in 2 Corinthians 5:9-11...*since...we persuade men.*

Conclusion