



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: May 7, 2023

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Matthew 24:1-14 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?

Obviously this is a complex passage, here D.A. Carson helps explain the way in which he understands the Olivet Discourse:

Commentary

In my understanding of the Olivet Discourse, the *disciples* think of Jerusalem's destruction and the eschatological end as a single complex web of events. This accounts for the form of their questions. Jesus warns that there will be delay *before* the End—a delay characterized by persecution and tribulation for his followers (vv. 4–28), but with one particularly violent display of judgment in the Fall of Jerusalem (vv. 15–21; Mark 13:14–20; Luke 21:20–24). Immediately after the days of that sustained persecution characterizing the interadvent period comes the Second Advent (Mt 24:29–31; cf. Guthrie, *NT Theology*, pp. 795–96). The warning in vv. 32–35 describes the whole tribulation period, from the Ascension to the Second Advent. 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). This structure works out in all three Synoptics (though with significant differences in emphasis), and the main themes developed have important ties with other NT books. The disciples' questions are answered, and 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).

D. A. Carson, "[Matthew](#)," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 495.

- 4) What differentiates unhelpful speculation from a sincere desire to understand our future hope?
- 5) Explain how this passage points us away from sinful, short-term pleasures.

- 6) What kind of treatment should believers expect as they await Christ's return?
- 7) What does it look like for followers of Christ to be eagerly watching for Jesus and urgently working for His kingdom purposes?
- 8) When you think missions, is there a specific ministry or country, or people group that really sticks with you? Explain.
- 9) How should the second coming of Christ inform our witness in the world?
- 10) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.

* Some of these questions taken from David Platt, [*Exalting Jesus in Matthew*](#), ed. Daniel L. Akin, David Platt, and Tony Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2013).

