

Week of May 7 - Flee to the Mountains! Small Group Lesson 6

Connect

When the forecast for rain is iffy, do you take an umbrella anyway, or risk it without one? Do you often need to buy one on your commute? (How many cheap umbrellas do you have piled up?)

Verses – Matthew 24:15-28 (CSB)

15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place” (let the reader understand), 16 “then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17 A man on the housetop must not come down to get things out of his house, 18 and a man in the field must not go back to get his coat. 19 Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days! 20 Pray that your escape may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21 For at that time there will be great distress, the kind that hasn’t taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again. 22 Unless those days were cut short, no one would be saved. But those days will be cut short because of the elect. 23 “If anyone tells you then, ‘See, here is the Messiah! ’ or, ‘Over here! ’ do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 Take note: I have told you in advance. 26 So if they tell you, ‘See, he’s in the wilderness! ’ don’t go out; or, ‘See, he’s in the storerooms! ’ do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather.

Study

1. Why do you think Jesus is so insistent that His followers flee from the coming tribulation that will lead to the destruction of Jerusalem? (vv.15~, compare Matthew 10:23)

2. How is the length of this tribulation adjusted and why? How does this affect your thoughts on how, why, and for who God does things? Did Jesus expect to return before, during, or after this period of distress? (24:29-30)

3. Why were the disciples told not to believe ANY reports about Christ's return? (v.23,26,27) Does this same admonition apply to us today? Why or why not?

☕ **DISCUSS:** Why is it important to remember that nobody knows when Jesus will return? (Matthew 24:24-26, 42-44)

🏃 **APPLY:** Jesus makes a point of letting the disciples know that He is purposefully telling them the events that will precede the destruction of the temple (v.25). What purpose does this serve? In our case, how do we benefit from knowing the kinds of events that will occur before the second coming of Jesus Christ?

Share

How will you handle it when someone challenges you insisting that Christ has indeed returned? What scripture would you bring up in order to point out the truth? Has this ever happened to you?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that the Lord will help us to be wise and speak the truth in love.
- Would you like to share your love and hope to kids through TBCKIDZ Church? Contact: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org