



Parables of the Kingdom – 3

Leader's Notes

Below are the answers to the blanks:

What were the three questions that the disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 24:1-3?

1. "When will this happen?" (*The disciples were asking Jesus when the temple would be destroyed.*)
2. "What will be the sign of your coming?"
3. "What will be the sign of the end of the age?"

1. What will be the signs of Jesus' coming? Matthew 24

Make a list of the things that will take place before Jesus' returns:

1. V4-5 Many will come claiming to be the Christ
2. V6 Wars and rumours of wars
3. V7 Famines
4. V7 Earthquakes

What are these things described as? V8 The beginning of birth pains. (*When a woman begins to have pains she knows the baby will arrive soon. When we see these things happen increasingly, we will know the time is near.*)

5. V9 Persecution and death of believers
6. V10 Many will turn from the faith
7. V11 Many false prophets will appear
8. V12 The love of most will grow cold
9. V14 The gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world
10. V23-26 There will be false Christ's and false prophets

What will Jesus' coming be like? v29-31

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. He will come in the clouds in power and glory, and His angels will come with a loud trumpet call. What a wonderful day that will be!

2. When will Jesus come again? **Matthew 24:32-41**

a.) We will know when the time is near Matthew 24:32-35

Discuss

How will we know when the time is near?

- Jesus said that we will know when we see all these things happen. The disciples and others saw many of these things when the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the temple, just 40 years later. They remembered the warning Jesus gave and fled to the mountains as He had said. See v16. This fulfilled what Jesus had said: "This generation will certainly not pass away!"
- There is a second fulfilment of this prophecy that will take place when Jesus returns. The fig tree is a symbol of Israel. When Israel became a nation again in 1947 it was a sign that the time is near. It could be in our life time!

b.) We will not know the day or hour Matthew 24:36-41

Who knows when that day will be? No one, only the Father

What will His coming be like? It will be sudden

Jesus gave two examples to show how sudden it will be. The first, is that it will be just like in the days of Noah, and the second is of two people working together and suddenly one is taken.

3. How can we be ready for His coming? **Matthew 24:42-51**

a.) Parable of the Thief Matthew 24:42-44

Discuss

What can we learn from this story?

- We all lock our doors at night to protect ourselves from thieves breaking in. Since we don't know when a thief may come, we make sure we do this every night.
- In the same way we need to always be ready for the coming of Jesus, as we don't know the exact time when He will come.

b.) Parable of the Servant Matthew 24:45-51

Discuss

What is the Lord saying to you from this story?

(Read the story together and then ask each one to read alone. Suggest they write down what the Lord is saying to them from this parable. Make sure you give enough time, and then share together what you have learnt.)