

## Hate One Another

### **Matthew 24:3 – 14**

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~ Our Spiritual Safari has traversed two of the three major discourses in the Gospel of Matthew thus far. The first was the Sermon on the Mount, in chapters five, six and seven; the second discourse is comprised of the Mystery Parables in chapter thirteen. The third discourse that we have arrived at in our expedition through the entire Word of God is commonly known as the Olivet Discourse; which runs through the next chapter also. The misunderstanding, erroneous teaching and resulting misapplication of the tremendous principles contained in these sections of Scripture are the primary reason that this lost and dying world has the worst possible conception of what Christianity really means. If you have not read all thirty-two of our previous safari reports from the Gospel of Matthew then I can only suggest you go back and do so now. We have traveled quite a ways with the Lord Jesus Christ heading to Jerusalem; so the religious rulers can murder Him. We have seen Jesus denounce, embarrass, shame and dismiss those religious rulers. Their house was pronounced desolate unto them by God; and we have seen Him turn His back on Jerusalem, too – all of which was positively frightening.

What is being presented in the Word of God is evidence of a postponed Kingdom. I'm not sure why so many people object to that? Well, if you object to that you're certainly going to have to object to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word! Jesus says He did not establish the Kingdom at that time right here in red and white – as in – blood. Christ is coming again to this earth to establish it IN THAT DAY – not today. Don't worry - the apostles didn't like the idea of a postponed Kingdom, either; and they had a very difficult time even approaching an understanding of it - just as most of us have. Remember, we are with Jesus and the disciples looking at a huge temple under construction. It is a complex of magnificent buildings – not just one big structure. When Jesus says it will be destroyed, frankly, the apostles must have been thinking, "...is this coming to fanaticism; and has He lost His Mind?" – Both would be totally legitimate questions. This place we're at is beautiful and large and it's hard to imagine there won't be one

stone left upon another. There are at least SOME stones left on the ancient ruins, right? – Not Herod’s temple, friends! That is where the Mosque of Omar stands today.

Herod’s Temple was almost one hundred percent marble. If you were to go to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem you will see many different types of stone. The Wailing Wall is made from stones taken from different areas and different periods of history. I say all that to say there is not one single stone left as it was in the days of Herod. Remember, the apostles were still in shock from the events in the last two chapters, and now that we come to this with Jesus, they are traumatized almost to paralysis. I think Jesus had to make them sit down for a minute and rest at this point. Well, they had a chance to get it together and they have come up with these three questions they ask Him now....

***3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, (1) Tell us, when shall these things be? (2) When shall one stone not be left upon another? and (3) what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?***

~ Here’s where the Word of God becomes extremely difficult to obtain the complete picture of what is being presented; and I believe intentionally so. Matthew does not record the answer to the first question. That question is answered directly in Luke; with segments found in Mark. See, Matthew is the Gospel of the Kingdom – the Kingdom is presented here. So, that’s what Matthew picked up on. The answer to their first question is not recorded by Matthew because it has nothing to do with the Kingdom of the future. Luke records the answer as, “...when ye shall see Jerusalem encompassed about with armies you will know this time has come that one stone will not be left upon another.” When God says, “search the Scriptures” – this is what He means.

Many of the people who were present when Luke witnessed this answer by Jesus were also there in 70 AD when Titus the Roman laid siege to it. Titus cut them off, went over the wall and Jerusalem was his. He demolished it and literally crushed everything to nothing according to the secular historical record. Jerusalem had been destroyed several times before - but

not like this. So then, one third of this Olivet Discourse has been literally fulfilled. The second two questions are about the signs of His return to establish His Kingdom and the end of the age – the end of the world to become a new earth, as we know it – to be sure. The church is nowhere in this picture. The church is gone because it has been called up in the air to meet Him as His Bride at that time. These are the last days of the nation Israel. This is talking about when the world goes into the Great Tribulation period. We have been over all of that in Revelation on safari and, if you missed it, we'll get back to it again. This discourse is where we get the term the Great Tribulation period from – from the Lord Jesus Himself....

***4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.***

~ This cautionary warning is applicable to us today and WILL BE applicable to those in the Great Tribulation period where the antichrist is to appear. We are told today to be aware of false teachers; and if anyone calls themselves a prophet or prophetess – or if they start prophesying - you can dismiss them completely and immediately as not worthy of thoughtful consideration. We are to test people with Scripture; not by what may or may not happen. Only the Lord Jesus can deliver people out of those cults. Some very sincere and well-meaning people get drawn unwittingly into religious fanaticism today. God seems to let them get well entrenched before He brings them around me. Some learn; some won't. Well, that's not my problem, because I know that any credible doctor will tell you they have no idea why some live and some die. Some live with me and some die by me; I can't explain it, either. Some seem to be dead and then Jesus brings them back to life, too. There is a LOT of false teaching and UNSOUND doctrine floating around the air waves and cyberspace of the world. You had better be careful what you read and believe, my dear readers. I would even suggest that you independently verify this so-called safari....

***5 For many false prophets shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.***

~ False Christ's come and go; and there are several around this forum on which I teach. Some people think they are a holy city in and of themselves.

Others believe that all eschatology has been literally fulfilled and that they are living in Heaven. What they fail to realize is that we don't have any holy cities on earth today – according to the Word of God. I think most of them believe they will solve the problems of the world, too. That mindset leads many to erroneously believe the church is going to convert the world and build a kingdom. I'll be honest; I thought that of myself at one time a long time ago - once upon a time – let's say. We aren't going to get the problems of mankind solved on our own, friends. Christ will come from Heaven with a shout – and that shout is what is going to solve all of the world's problems – and your problems, too.

With the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ - here with us on the Mount of Olives at the time in which we are studying, I say I believe there will be a false Christ in the Great Tribulation period. The Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible – the Son of God – is bridging the gap prophetically for us. Many people believe that Jesus moves immediately to the end of the age here as He speaks of the rider on the white horse in Revelation. I am sure I can see the entire spectrum of the Scripture fulfilled. If you disagree that is okay. I believe Jesus bridges that gap and includes the Great Tribulation period here. If you don't, then you have a right to be wrong. Most people are wrong. Why not be different and, actually, be right? Confusing? You bet; but not really....

***6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.***

~ Wars and rumors of wars are not the sign of the end of the age – that's not what it says here. Every war since the time of Abraham and the kings of the east to the wars we're having today have been considered the end of the age – to those involved. If you're not in the war it doesn't seem to apply to you. The earth has only had about two hundred years of documented peace time. The rest has been involved in one major war or another. There are hundreds of books today about the end of the world and end times. They're flowing off the press so fast I can't count them. They're all very sensational; except they don't take into account that we dropped atom bombs on Japan a long time ago and we're still here. They never seem to get around to that. I think man honestly but mistakenly believes he is going

to solve the problem of war. The League of Nations turned into the United Nations and there's no telling what's next as they figure out it has never worked. They will come up with something new but NOTHING will work until the Prince of Peace Himself doth appear with a shout – with the voice like a trumpet....

***7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.***

***8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.***

~ We have had every single one of these tragic events on this list occur recently and we can add the population explosion and global weather whatever; it all has the world frightened - and rightly so, my beloved. People are starving tonight by the millions – maybe billions – and increasing daily as it must. However, friends, the black horse of famine hasn't ridden yet, you can just write that down. When he rides, famine will be a plague you cannot imagine. These are just the beginning of sorrows - not the sorrows of the end of a world age. We still live in the age of the church – the age of the Holy Spirit - and God has man divided up when He says "give none offense; neither to the Jew, nor the Gentile, nor the church." These are our three groups of people in the world. God is calling believers from each of these groups to be taken out of the world. When that time is fulfilled, the Great Tribulation period begins; and I think that's where we pick up right here....

***9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.***

~ Who is Jesus speaking of here? – He is talking to and about the nation Israel, friends. Let's begin to comprehend that line of consistent thinking. Verse nine speaks of anti-Semitism on a world-wide scale. As long as the true church is in the world we cannot have world-wide anti-Semitism because the genuine living church will always resist that at all cost. It is impossible for a true believer to hate the nation Israel. Liberalism has put up a front in this connection that will ultimately turn against them and bite them hard. When the true church is removed from the world in the rapture

– I believe all hell will break out immediately afterward, and I say, “...woe unto the world....”

***10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.***

***11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.***

***12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.***

~ Many of the principles we have had revealed to us in this report are applicable to today, of course; the way the world is accelerating is dangerously rapid - and it is heading full-throttle towards a very bad place. Preachers become liberal and start drinking and having affairs; they don't fight city hall – they join them. Well, friends, this safari rejects city hall. We don't even get NEAR a city hall in this expedition. Iniquity surrounds us and it is abounding; the love of many is certainly waxing cold. At least we still have some mothers who love their children and some husbands that love their wives. Can you imagine when there is NO love? That's a song that hasn't been written yet, has it? ~

***13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.***

~ What do we have to endure to be saved; I thought all we had to do was believe? Who CAN endure? - Well, Revelation teaches that God stops the whole forces of nature and evil AND of good – and seals a certain number of His chosen people. Who will endure? – Those that He has sealed from the foundation of the world, of course. Irrespective of the time period, the sheep that are His are going to make it through to the other side alive. Those who are His will be recognized by the fact that they endured to the end; and that they endured because He sustained them every single step of the way.

A preacher who quits preaching and begins to get drunk: is he saved? - I don't know! We're going to have to wait to get that answer! I do know the pigs will be found in the pig pen and the prodigal son made it home to the Father's house. It seems like we find a lot of sons in the pig pens and a lot

of pigs up in the Father's house. Peter says the sow that was washed returns to her wallowing again. You can wash a pig and brush its teeth and put a nice pink ribbon on it and guess what? Sometimes a sheep gets stuck in the mud, too. We have a wonderful Shepherd that gets us out of the mud; because we can't get ourselves out. Jesus comes out and gets us when we're stuck. Alright, we have had an extremely confusing report in this leg of our Spiritual Safari, so we're keeping this one short....

***14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.***

~ We're going to save this verse for the next report except to say that some people think there are several Gospels in the Bible. People who believe that there are two or more Gospels really believe there is more than one way to be saved. They couldn't be more wrong. Some think there is a Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of the grace of God and some other Gospels, too. Not so, my friends. There are NOT several methods of saving people – only one; so, only one Gospel. In our next report we are going to find out for sure if God has several methods of saving people - or if God only has ONE method. Let's just be clear now that God has never had but ONE way to save sinners; and that way is the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ ~

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