

Gospel Optimism (Matthew 24:1-35)

Introduction

- Should we feel optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the church?
- Why?
- What is Matthew 24:1 – 25:46 mostly about?
- What are the disciples doing in v1?
- What is Jesus more interested in (v2)?
- The disciples ask Jesus about this in v3. In his reply, is he talking about the destruction of the temple, about the end of the world, or about both?

i The gospel will triumph

- What is the first difficulty the church will face in the run up to the end (v4-5)?
- How do we need to respond to this?
- What is the second difficulty the church will face in the run up to the end (v6-8)?
- Do wars and rumours of wars mean that Jesus is about to return? Why or why not?
- What is the third difficulty the church will face in the run up to the end (v9-13)?
- What will it be like for the church then?
- Why is v14 like turning on a light in a dark room?
- Why is it sensational that all nations will hear the gospel?
- How many unreached people groups are there today?
- What does Revelation 7:9 say about heaven?
- What should this do to us today?

ii Christ will triumph

- What are v15-20 about?
- What about v21-22?
- What will there be a lot of near the end (v23-26)?
- What is the first thing we learn about Christ's return in v27-28?
- What is the second thing we learn about Christ's return in v29?
- Which other passage teaches that?
- What is the third thing we learn about Christ's return in v30?
- What does all this show us, then?
- Why should we think about these truths?

iii The elect will triumph

- Who are the elect?
- What will the response of those outside Christ be to his return (v30)?
- Why will that be the case?
- What will happen to the elect (v31)?
- What will be true of the church then?
- What should this do to us today?

Conclusion

- According to v32-35, what will happen before Jesus' generation have died?
- What does this mean about Christ's return for us today?
- What do you need to do if you are not a Christian?