



As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Teaching 7 – Evangelizing the Streets

EVANGELIZING THE STREETS

Before His crucifixion, Jesus told his disciples about the signs of the times which would occur near the end of this age. He presented a picture of the world's conditions before His return. Among those predicted events was His statement in **Matthew 24:14**, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the entire world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.

This prophecy has become both an evangelistic goal and a hallmark of hope for disciples ever since. The goal has compelled believers to heroic steps in **world evangelization**. And the unfinished task has given the hope that there is yet time to reach both loved ones and lost tribes with the gospel "while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" **John 9:4**.

Having studied the earlier lessons in this guide, how would you now define the *gospel of the kingdom* to which Jesus referred in **Matthew 24:14**?

What aspects of "the kingdom" are new to you?

How has the "the gospel of the kingdom ... preached in the entire world" affected the kingdom of darkness, which has captivated and manipulated millions? **Matthew 11:12** **Ephesians 6:11-12**

Review the references to the "Great Commission" **Matthew 28:18–20**; **Mark 16:15–18**; **Luke 24:46–49** and list any specific content which is to be preached in this redemptive kingdom message.

HAVING A PERSPECTIVE:

Matthew 24:1, we read that Jesus and His disciples had just left the temple area in Jerusalem. The disciples beheld its structures with awe and admiration and called Jesus' attention to them. However, in the eyes of the Spirit, Jesus saw the temple in total ruin.

How did He describe what He saw to His disciples? **v, 2**

Later, as they sat with Him on the Mount of Olives **v. 3**, still bewildered by His words, they asked Him more. They had thought that He would fulfil their immediate aspiration for an Israel liberated from Roman tyranny. They saw themselves living in freedom and triumph, with Jesus reigning over the House of David as their earthly, politically crowned king. Now reality is dawning, and they are asking Him more questions.

What are the three questions they ask? **V, 3**

THE FOCUS IS JESUS:

Jesus' primary concern is for His disciples, so He responds to their most immediate need. In **Matthew 24:4-5** what is His first concern?

Yes, He is concerned that they be ***anchored in truth*** and following God's authentic Son, not a false Christ. In other words, let us not get so caught up in last day events that we forget the King and eternal Son, who deserve our primary attention. His name is to be heralded to the world, to all peoples and all nations.

Jesus does not want His disciples to fall prey to the deceiver. What does Jesus say about Satan? How will Satan carry out his deception? Summarize **verses 4, 5, 11, and 23–25** below. The apostles of the early church expressed the same concern. Summarize their thoughts in the following scriptures in the context of today's world.

Colossians 2:8 Colossians 2:18-19 1 John 2:18-22

TROUBLE EVERYWHERE:

In **Matthew 24:6–13**, Jesus deals with the gloominess of a godless world rushing to its last hurrah at the "end of the ages". Write down what strikes you most as you read these verses.

Compare these predictions with **Revelation 6:3-8**

Jesus explains what must come to pass as we persevere in the commission's completion, taking the gospel around the world. From **Matthew 24:5–8**, make a verse-by-verse list of the dreadful times and circumstances Jesus described, which His disciples may face wherever they live and witness throughout these last days.

Matthew 24:5

V, 6

V, 7

V, 8

The Bible reveals how godly character develops in those who become filled with God's love, His life, and compassion for the people of our world. Note the enrichment that is present in the following passages.

Genesis 18:23

Proverb 29:18

Revelation 5:10; 8:3-4

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THE PROGRESS OF TIME, THE INCREASED PRESSURE:

Many intercessors become directly involved in the answer to their prayers. The gospel can, when brought in wisdom and timeliness, turn the tide and defuse the most volatile of situations, even at the height of a battle or in the most heated conflict.

How does **Revelation 12:11** describes the dedication of end-time disciples?

Do you think believers in Australia will have to face martyrdom? **See Revelation 13:10**

In **Matthew 24:8–12**, one sees the increase of persecution, which will either bring believers closer to the Lord or wash them away. But Jesus is able to keep that which is committed unto Him **2 Timothy 1:12** From **Matthew 24**, list what believers who are committed to the end are going to face?

Matthew 24:9 V, 10 V, 11

Jesus provided hope and a promise when He said, “he who endures to the end shall be saved” (**Matt. 24:13**). How do New Testament writers say we should conduct ourselves in the following verses?

Philippians 1:27-30 Hebrews 10:38-39

Endures: Definition, to hold one’s ground in conflict, bear up against adversity, hold out under stress, stand firm, persevere under pressure, wait calmly and courageously. It is not passive resignation to fate and mere patience, but the active, energetic resistance to defeat that allows calm and brave endurance.

In the midst of calamity, the church in triumph breaks through **Revelation 10:11; 14:6** to free Satan’s powerless captives by declaring the Name of One who frees and brings life. Paul says that in order to be able to endure, we must put on the Lord Jesus Christ **Romans 13:12, 14**. He is all we need **1 Corinthians 1:29–31**. Putting on Jesus is, in part, like putting on all the armour described in **Ephesians 6:14–16**. Below, list each piece of the armour, and how Jesus becomes all we need.

All that was happening in the world then and all that is coming to pass today is the result of mankind’s trying to make life happen on their own terms. God’s terms or ways are not man’s, for God’s ways are higher. That is why possessing cheerfulness amid tribulation is possible only in following Jesus’ order of trust in times of chaos. Being an overcomer is possible.

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SUMMARY:

The church of Jesus Christ must pray. A Holy Spirit vision needs to be ignited. Globally minded, churches must come together. People called by God to go must prepare and present themselves. Preparations to send and support need to be set in order. The Holy Spirit, of necessity, will call the church to fasting and prayer, and call some to go forth in service to the nations.

Taking the gospel to the streets, whether at home or abroad, is a desire of most Christians. And probably all Christians desire to pray for the lost. So all of us are involved at some level. Whether you want to pray or to go, below are some ideas that may help you fulfil your desire. Make a note to yourself in the areas that will be applicable for you.

Set a practical goal. Be realistic. Write down one or two ways during the next six months to a year that you can get involved evangelistically. Ideas: one-on-one with a neighbour, working in your church's evangelistic activities, doing a short-term missions outreach. Take some time, prayerfully, with a friend or a spouse to decide, and make a commitment here, on paper, that you will be faithful to.

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