

Signs of the Times

10.19.2014

SAY WHAT? Discerning the signs [Matt. 16:1-3]

SO WHAT? Signs of Jesus' imminent return:

- 1) The rebirth of Israel
 - Deut. 30:1-5; Ezek. 34:11-13
- 2) Violence and wars
 - Matt. 24:3-6
- 3) Increased number of plagues, famines and earthquakes
 - Luke 21:10-11; Matt. 24:7
- 4) Plummeting morality
 - 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Matt. 24:12
- 5) Explosion of apostasy and counterfeit spirituality
 - 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Thes. 2:1-3; Matt. 24:11
- 6) The New World Order
 - Daniel 7-11; Rev. 13

NOW WHAT?: Be on the alert! [Matt. 24:36-42]

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on October 19, 2014

Signs of the Times Matthew 16:1-3

Ice Breaker: Have you ever felt like you were given a “sign” that helped you make a decision? Briefly share what that was and why you were given it.

Questions for “GROUP DISCUSSION

Does thinking of Jesus¹ return bring you excitement or anxiety or both?

How does living in Christian community influence your perspective on today's situation?

Knowing we are one day closer to Jesus¹ return, how are you going to live with a sense of urgency?

Questions for “PERSONAL GROWTH

Monday- *What will the end look like?* Please read Matthew 16:1-3; 24:1-14. What is the warning Jesus gives in v. 4? What confusion did the people at that time have about the coming of Christ? How do we “put God in a box” by our own limited expectations? How does our small thinking often limit our trust in and view of God?

Tuesday *What in the world is going on?* -From that same passage, what will be going on in the world when Jesus returns? Have some of those things been going on for years? Does our current world reflect an increase of these signs, just as a woman's birth pains become more frequent and painful?

Wednesday- *At the end of time, what will the heart of the people reflect?* Please read Luke 21:26 and Isaiah 13:6-9. What struck fear in the people then? What strikes fear in you? How does our level of faith in God correlate with our level of anxiety and fear?

Thursday- *Is more always better?* What will increase in the last days? Please read James 5:1-8; 2 Peter 2:12-14; and 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Consider the things that are said to increase in these passages against what you witness around you today. What is one thing you can personally commit to, today, which will demonstrate your ability to live in the world but not partake of it?

Friday- *Is everything going to be alright?* Please read Ezekiel 13:1-12 and Daniel 12:4. What was Ezekiel warning us about? Study in detail what He says about false prophets in this passage. How is the false, worldly message of “Everything is gonna be alright” still problematic today? How can false prophesy give us a sense of false security? As a true believer in Christ, having received His gift of salvation, how can you say to yourself, “Everything is going to be alright” and know it to be true?