

Twenty-Four Seven – Week 3 – The Other Sermon on the Mount Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at <u>info@wschurch.org</u>.

Scripture:

As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. ² But he responded, "Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!" ³ Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?"

⁴ Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, ⁵ for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. ⁷ Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. ⁸ But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. Matthew 24:1-8

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.

2 Timothy 3:1

"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. Matthew 24:36

Reflection Questions:

• When someone says the phrase, "the end times," what images and words come to your mind? What emotions do you feel?

- Eddie shared in the teaching, "Jesus used prophecy to promote peace, not panic." Pause for a moment to pray and invite Jesus to guide your reflection and discussion. Ask him to bring peace and clarity.
- The 3 objectives from the message Eddie had us repeat were:
 - Hear what Jesus said, emphasize the clearest parts, and let it shape how we live.
- Start by hearing Jesus' words in Matthew 24. Take some time to slowly read it, listen to it read aloud, and read it several times. What do you hear in Jesus' teaching?
- What is clear in this passage? Make a list (together, if you're unpacking this with others).
- What is something about the end of the world that you need to remember from Jesus' teaching today?
- Is there a question that you have about this chapter and Jesus' teaching?
- Eddie shared, "Realistic expectations make us wiser and stronger. The world will be chaotic until Jesus returns." Read 2 Timothy 3:1. Why do you think Jesus wants his followers to know this?
- How can we let this shape how we live?
 - Eddie encouraged us to "live ready." What might that look like? Make another list.
 - What are some habits and practices that can keep us alert and observant to God and ready for him?
- Read Matthew 24:36. If the specific timing is unknown, why do you think Jesus is telling us all of this? What have you sensed God saying to you as you've reflected on this teaching this week?
- Close your time by praying and talking honestly to God about what's on your mind and heart.

Invitation to Practice:

• Lent (Spring) Season Reflection -

In the weeks between now and Easter, as Christ-followers, we remember Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness and his journey toward the cross. Take a moment to use the free <u>PDF linked here</u> to prayerfully consider what God might be inviting you to do over the next several weeks. Let's make room to walk with Jesus intentionally in this season.