

August 5, 2018

## Matthew 24:32-51

### The Olivet Discourse Continued

- Having answered the disciples' questions, Jesus now turns His attention to preparing them for these events through a series of parables and instructions.
- Once again [ch. 21:19-22] Jesus uses the illustration of the fig tree to refer to the events that will impact Jerusalem.
- *All these things* are the "leaves" that signal Jesus' soon return.
- God's timing is not ours.
- The specific time is known only by the Father; not even Jesus Himself knows the specific time of His return.
- Jesus gives a warning to be vigilant and ready.
- Some examples of constant readiness (v. 40-44).

**1 Thess 5:1-3** Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- We must live our lives *ready* for the return of the King, discerning the times and discerning our own hearts by the Spirit.
- The PRIMARY way to be prepared for the return of Christ is to be found feeding His sheep the Food of God, the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

**Matt 14:19-20** Then [Jesus] ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over...

- We are to feed each other in the same way that God feeds us.

**John 13:34** ...a new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another...

- And this love is defined in **Gal. 5:22-23**.
  - The experience of love is [Jesus' own] ...joy...
  - The effect of love is [Jesus' own] ...peace...
  - The expression of love is [Jesus' own] ...patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control...
  
- However, those whose hearts do not belong to the master will perceive his delay as their opportunity to feed themselves at the expense of God's people.
  
- We must guard against becoming slothful and lazy as we wait for the return of the Lord.