

A Different Path to Success

Keep Watch

Matthew 24

"...but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." Matthew 24:13

1. Read Matthew 24. What events do the disciples ask Jesus about in verse 3?
2. According to verses 4–14, what are some of the signs Jesus said would signal his coming and the end of the age?
3. What truths give hope to those who belong to Christ? (verses 13–14)
4. What does it look like to “stand firm”? (Philippians 1:27–28a; Ephesians 6:10–18) Is there an area in which you are struggling to stand firm? Pray and ask another person to pray for you.
5. According to verses 15–28, what will the condition of the world be like prior to the return of Christ?
6. *The “abomination that causes desolation” (verse 15) is an image from the book of Daniel. The term refers to “something blasphemous, sacrilegious, some abominable object, which will be placed in the temple.”¹ Daniel’s prophecy was first fulfilled in 168 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the temple by building an altar to Zeus there and sacrificing a pig on it. Jesus’ prophecy looks ahead to A.D. 70, when the Romans desecrated the temple with their blasphemous banners before destroying it and Jerusalem.*

What dire statements does Jesus make in verses 21 and 22 about the days when the abomination will appear?

¹ Wright, Tom, *Matthew for Everyone, Part Two* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004), 118.

7. What is Jesus' coming compared to? (verse 27) Why?

8. What will happen when the Son of Man appears? (verses 30–31) How will the nations react to his appearance? Explain their reaction? (Revelation 6:15–17)

9. What does the description of Noah's time (verses 36–39) tell us about the coming of the Son of Man? What is the lesson from this for our time?

10. Jesus tells us to keep watch and be ready. How do we do this? (Colossians 3:1–4; 4:2; 1 Peter 1:13–16)

11. In what ways do you need to prepare yourself to be ready for Christ's coming? How might remembering the truth of his coming impact your daily life?

12. Share with your group your thoughts and feelings as you read this chapter. What specific questions do you still have about Christ's return? Ask God to help you trust him for what only your Father in heaven knows.