

## Participant's Guide 6

### On the Mount of Olives

#### I. Celebrating Christ as Deliverer

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be <sup>[a]</sup>saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

#### II. Read this week's story: Matthew 24; Matthew 25 Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38-- DA 69, 70

#### III. For Meditation:

- a. Turning to the disciples, Christ said, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Many false messiahs will appear, claiming to work miracles, and declaring that the time of the deliverance of the Jewish nation has come. These will mislead many. Christ's words were fulfilled. Between His death and the siege of Jerusalem many false messiahs appeared. But this warning was given also to those who live in this age of the world. The same deceptions practiced prior to the destruction of Jerusalem have been practiced through the ages, and will be practiced again. DA 628
- b. Matthew 24 is an important NT chapter about Christ's second coming. It was given on the Mount of Olives, Tuesday, of the crucifixion week. Also Matthew 25 which has the three parables about the preparation for Jesus return was given at that time.
- c. In Matthew 24:20 Christ gave the counsel "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day." Jesus was referring to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 ad. Here is what we read concerning the Christian's response to Christ's counsel; Christ gave His disciples a sign of the ruin to come on Jerusalem, and He told them how to escape... This warning was given to be heeded forty years after, at the destruction of Jerusalem. The Christians obeyed the warning, and not a Christian perished in the fall of the city. " P 630.
- d. What bible personality is given as an illustration of end time? \_\_\_\_\_ p 633
- e. Give five important elements of "watching" for Jesus coming. DA 634 \_\_\_\_\_  
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- f. What are the three parables of preparation for Christ's return listed in Matthew 25? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- g. Can people who do not profess Jesus be in God's kingdom? Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish....Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God. DA 638

#### IV. Prayer this week:

1. Five People who need your prayer support;
2. Your Church in its witness for Christ;
3. Your Family it will be close and united.
4. The leaders of your church, conference, city and province.
5. That you will have the courage to leave your comfort zone to fulfill a calling from God.

## Background

After a heavy day of teaching (On Tuesday before the crucifixion), Jesus retired to the Mount of Olives with some of His disciples and as the sun was setting He gave them the message about His second return in Matthew 24 and 25. Thank You Jesus for your teaching on this Tuesday which has given lasting help for over 2000 years.

Wednesday—In Retirement—No recorded activities (He is probably at a location on the Mount of Olives or Garden of Gethsemane)

After such a heavy day of teaching and before the challenges He will face on Thursday, I can picture Jesus spending the day in prayer. There are times in our lives when the demands are heavy and a spiritual retreat is needed to give us the power to face the challenges ahead. Today I would like us to look at some Biblical descriptions of the prayer life of Jesus as an encouragement for our prayer today.

“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” Mark 1: 35. The night watches in Jewish reckoning were first 6-9 pm; second 9-12 mid-night; third 12-3 am; fourth 3-6 am. Jesus often prayed during the fourth watch. It may be a special time for us—the fourth watch. Of course any time is meaningful for prayer.

“However, the report went around concerning Him all the more: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” Luke 4: 16

“And when He sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came He was alone there.” Matthew 14:23. This scripture describes how Jesus came to His disciples when they were caught in a storm in the middle of Galilee in the fourth watch of the night.

Jesus not only prayed for Himself but He prayed for His disciples and all followers to this day. Jesus shows His heart in prayer in John 17. This prayer He prayed with His disciples late Thursday afternoon after the Passover supper —He prayed for Himself, His disciples and all believers down through the ages. Here are a few excerpts from that prayer:

“I do not pray that You (The Father) should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them that they may be one just as We are one.”

When the disciples who were inspired by Jesus prayer life came to Jesus earlier in His ministry and said, “Lord teach us to pray” He gave them the prayer that is incorporated in the sermon on the mount in Matthew 6 which has influenced Christian’s prayer for 2000 years. A powerful prayer life is key to be a powerful witness for Christ.

On tomorrow’s post we will be going to the upper room for the Passover supper, His message to His disciples, Gethsemane, His capture by the mob. Gethsemane will display the most desperate, heartfelt, passionate prayer this world has ever seen. Sometimes desperation brings our heart closest to God as we crave His presence and power.