

THE LIFE OF  
**JESUS**

Message 31  
**Birth Pains**  
Perry Duggar  
August 20, 2017

► **Outline**

Today's Message based on *The Life of Jesus* – Reading 171  
(Matthew 24:1-51; Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-38)

*"And what is the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"*  
Matthew 24:3b (HCSB)

**A. Introduction**

(Matthew 24:1-14; Mark 13:3-4,23; Luke 21:5,11-19. C/R:  
Luke 19:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

**B. Signs of Jesus' return...**

1. Deception by false \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 24:4-5. C/R: Matthew 24:23-24;  
2 Corinthians 11:12-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8)

2. Disputes and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 24:6-7a)

3. Disaster and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 24:7b-8; Mark 3:23; Luke 21:11b)

4. Distress and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 24:9; Luke 21:12-15. C/R: Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17)

5. Defection of \_\_\_\_\_ believers.  
(Matthew 24:10-13; Luke 21:16-19. C/R: Matt. 10:32-38;  
13:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; 1 John 2:19)

6. Declaration of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 24:14. C/R Revelation 14:6-7)

**Answers:** 1. Messiahs 2. warfare 3. devastation 4. persecution 5. false 6. gospel  
**Resource Information:** Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from HCSB version (Holman Christian Standard Bible) of *The Holy Bible*. Our resource book for this series is *The Life of Jesus, A Simplified Harmony of the Gospels*, which is available in the Bookstore. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

## ► Discussion Guide

Use this guide to help you draw closer to God. Try not to rush through these questions, but take time to learn and grow. Ask God to speak to you in His Word. Find a Small Group at [brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups](http://brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups).

### Conversation Starter

What is the least expected (or most surprising) event that has happened to you? Would there have been any way for you to foresee it?

### Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Matthew 24:1-14](#) (The beginning of Reading #171 in *The Life of Jesus*).

1. This chapter describes events that would happen while the disciples were still alive, but also points to the end of the world ([vs. 3, 6, 13-14](#)). What specific signs does Jesus name that reveal the end is near? What are modern-day examples of each of these signs?
2. What dangers accompany Jesus' appearing?
3. How often do you think about the end of the world or the second coming of Jesus? *Explain.*
4. If someone asked you why there's so much violence and hatred in the world, how do you think God would want you to respond? What Bible verses help you interpret the times we live in?
5. How can Christians keep their love from growing cold?

Jump ahead to [Matthew 24:36-44](#).

6. Rather than speculating the specific day and time Jesus will return, He simply tells us to *be alert* (NLT has *keep watch*). How does Jesus want us to live in light of His return? What does it mean to *be alert*? Rather than watching world events, what does Jesus want us to watch?

7. Identify one or two of the most important insights God is drawing your attention to in this passage. What does He want you to remember?
8. In your own words, what is *the good news of Jesus*?
9. What areas of your life, in light of eternity, are probably pretty pointless and a waste of time?
10. In light of this week's teaching, what is a great action step for you?  
*See also: [1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11](#).*

*Teach us to realize the brevity of life,  
so that we may grow in wisdom.*  
**Psalm 90:12 (NLT)**

### Soul Training

Write a brief prayer asking God to help you be prepared for Jesus' return. Ask Him to help you not be caught up in speculations and dates, but in readiness for His coming.

### Memory Verse

*And because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, this one will be delivered.*

[Matthew 24:12-13 \(HCSB\)](#)

### Daily Reading

Day	<i>The Life of Jesus</i> Reading #	or	Bible Reference
August 21	171		<a href="#">Matthew 24:1-51</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 13:1-37</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 21:5-38</a>
August 22	172		<a href="#">Matthew 25:1-13</a>
August 23	173		<a href="#">Matthew 25:14-30</a>
August 24	174		<a href="#">Matthew 25:31-46</a>
August 25	175		<a href="#">Matthew 26:1-5</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 14:1-2</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 22:1-2</a>

### Prepare for Next Sunday

On Sunday, August 27, we'll see the heart of God as **Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**. Prepare ahead by reading [John 13:1-20](#). (Reading# 179 in *The Life of Jesus*).