

Preparing for the Arrest: The Calm before the Storm

Scripture Reading: Matthew 23:29-39

Matthew 22:46

Introduction: the chronology of the gospels

What did Jesus do during the calm before the storm?

- 1. Jesus preached His final public sermon (Luke 21:38; Matthew 23:1-36).**

Luke 21:38 All the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple to listen to Him.

Acts 13:6-11

Galatians 1:9

Titus 1:10-11

Revelation 2:6, 14-15, 20

2. Jesus grieved to say goodbye to Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37-39).

3. Jesus ate His last meal with His disciples.

4. Jesus told His disciples what was coming (Matthew 24-25; John 13-16).

John 13:19 From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.

John 14:29 Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.

John 16:4 But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

He told them that He would be betrayed by one of them and handed over for arrest. He would be abandoned by all of them, and denied three times by Peter (though He also told them that Peter would later be restored). He would be crucified at Passover, but then resurrected. They would see Him again in Galilee, but then He would return to the Father. Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed. Jesus' followers would experience the hatred of the world and tribulation; they would be cast out and even killed. They would have to live as humble servants with deep love for one another. But the Spirit would come to be in them and with them forever. By the Spirit they would know the truth and know God like never before. The Spirit would convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. By the Spirit they would do greater works, testifying with the Spirit and bringing the message of eternal life to all the nations. The gospel of Jesus as the only way to the Father would spread to the whole world, and then the end will come. Jesus will return with power and great glory, though this will be preceded by a time of great tribulation. His return will be unexpected, so they must stay ready and be found faithfully serving God. When He comes, the unrighteous will face final judgment and hell, while Jesus will take His followers to be with Him forever in a place prepared for them.