

## What If ...

### *Jesus Meant What He Said About the Second Coming*

*The sky isn't falling, but the end might be neigh. At least it seems that way, and if you listen to the "right" preachers, it's pretty clear they believe Jesus is coming again probably sooner than later. Of course, we've been waiting for almost 2000 years and many of us have given up the wait. "Obviously, Jesus was only speaking metaphorically." But ... what if he really meant what he said? What if the "end" really is coming, whether sooner or later? And in these troubled times one never knows ...*

Matthew 24:1–36

1. The early church believed Jesus' return *and* the final judgment were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The "birth pangs" of the end are \_\_\_\_\_ – they've been going from the beginning.
3. In the end, \_\_\_\_\_ be spared persecution or martyrdom.
4. Believers are called to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ doing the Lord's work because the \_\_\_\_\_ are near ... and always have been.

### ***My Count Me In! Commitment***

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll check out Celebrate Recovery on Monday at 7 PM  
Zoom Meeting ID: 293 990 0114

# Digging Deeper

*What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said About the Second Coming?*

**Scripture:** *Matthew 24:1–36*

**Introduction:** *The end times are a fascinating topic of study. Key biblical passages include sections of Daniel, Ezekiel, Joel, Matthew, Thessalonians, and of course the book of Revelation (no “s” at the end of that last book ... it has revelations, but it’s the book of Revelation). Over the years, many so called theologians have tried to deduce clues from the scriptures to make a prediction about the day and time of Jesus’ coming and the end of the age, but Jesus is pretty clear that their work is futile. Instead, Jesus does tell his disciples that they have a job to do in the interim time ... a job that applies to us, today’s church and today’s disciples, as well.*

1. Read Matthew 24:1–3. Why do you think the disciples were so interested in knowing “when will this happen and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”
2. Why do you think the disciples thought that the destruction of the Temple and the end of the age were related events? When we hear of global wars and unrest, particularly in the Middle East, why do you think we conclude similarly?
3. Read 24:4–14. Why do you think Jesus felt the need to warn the disciples about being deceived? Do you think his warning is relevant to us today? Why or why not?
4. Read 24:15–31. Why do you think “the elect” are not spared from all the tribulations mentioned in this passage?
5. In verses 13–14, Jesus says only those who stand firm to the end will be saved. In context, what do you think it means to “stand firm”?
6. Read 24:32–36. Although throughout this passage Jesus gives a list of some signs that signal his coming and the end of the age, he admits that no one except God alone knows the “day or the hour” of these events. Why do you think that day is such a secret?
7. What do you think Jesus expects his followers to do in the “between” time of now and then?

**Next Week:** Hurts, Habits, and Hang-ups. How Can We “Get Over It”?