




THE END

The Olivet Discourse



Be Encouraged

Sunday, June 30, 2024

Matthew 24:29-31 (Luke 21:25-28; Mark 13:25-27)

Several years ago, Chuck Swindoll wrote an article entitled, “Encouragement Takes the Sting Out of Life.” The Bible is filled with instruction and commands to encourage one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NASB95) ¹¹ Therefore **encourage one another** and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Hebrews 3:13 (NASB95) ¹³ **But encourage** one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NASB95) ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

The word “encouragement” used in Hebrews 10:25 is from the same Greek root used for the Holy Spirit in John 14:26,16:7. In John, the Holy Spirit is called “the Helper.” The actual term, parakaleo, is from a combination of two smaller words, kaleo, “to call,” and para, “alongside.” Just as the Holy Spirit is called alongside to help us, so it is with us when you and I encourage someone else. The verses we will be studying today help take the sting out of the difficult truths that we have already seen in Matthew 24. We understand there will be suffering on the earth and judgment is sure! In the Matthew 24:29-31, Jesus encourages us that He always keeps His Word: He will return, gather His people, and establish His eternal kingdom!

Key thought: Jesus always keeps His Word: He will return, gather His people, and establish His eternal kingdom!

• **Be encouraged: Jesus always keeps His Word!**

(2 Corinthians 1:20; Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 13:8, 10:23; Philippians 1:6)

• **Be encouraged: Jesus will return!**

(2 Thessalonians 2:1–3; James 5:7–8)

• **Be encouraged: Jesus will gather His people!**

(Matthew 3:12; 13:47–48; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; John 14:1–6)

• **Be encouraged: Jesus will establish His eternal kingdom!**

(Luke 1:33; Matthew 6:9–13; 2 Timothy 4:18; Hebrews 12:28)

“The word kingdom occurs 342 times in the Bible, 158 of which are in the New Testament. During the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, Martin Luther saw the worst of Satan’s kingdom venting all its fury against him. He wrestled against the principalities and powers. He stood against the rulers of the darkness of this world. He strove against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). At times he was really discouraged when he saw the might and authority that the Adversary seemed to be able to wield against him. Who was he, that he should dare to take a stand against such an awesome foe? But he took comfort from the Word of God in the 46th Psalm, and he paraphrased it in his famous Reformation hymn ‘A Mighty Fortress is Our God.’”

Listen to what Luther wrote: ‘The prince of darkness grim - we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure - one little word shall fell Him. That ‘little word’ is none other than Jesus Christ, the living Word, that Luther had come to trust in. And Luther thus ends the hymn powerfully in praise of that Word ‘That word above all earthly powers - no thanks to them - abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth, let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also, the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still - His kingdom is forever.’

Yes, God’s kingdom is forever! This is our source of great comfort and encouragement.