

Signs of the Times

MATTHEW 24:3-14

The seeking of the kingdom of God is the chief business of the Christian life.

-Johnathan Edwards

I. False Expectations

II. False Labor

III. Failure & Faithfulness

- 3) The nation of Israel had rejected her messiah and the judgment that was coming was going to be severe. But the disciples are going to suffer persecution not because they are disobedient, but because they are faithful. It's tempting to think that God "owes" me something for my obedience. What DOES God promise us when we obey? It can be difficult to continue in obedience when circumstances are hard. Are there areas of your life where you are growing "weary of doing good?" How can the group be praying specifically for strength and encouragement?

- 4) This section reminds the disciples and us that the kingdom is something that we still wait for. But the time is not wasted. While the kingdom is delayed, the gospel goes out to the whole world. We know that we take part in that gospel promise and proclamation. How do we know that the gospel will not be preached in vain? How should that motivate and encourage us? Who are you specifically praying for the opportunity to share the gospel with?

For your Families

- 5) Talk with your kids about the hope that we have in a world that is in turmoil and maybe even frightening at times. Remind them of the hope that we have in knowing that God has a plan, and that our home is ultimately in heaven and not in the brokenness of a sinful world.