

Don't Be Deceived
Matthew 24:1-35

Review:

1. The suffering of Christ's followers is an ongoing sign of His coming
2. Many people refuse to accept this sign, instead believing false prophets, embracing lawlessness and letting their love for Jesus grow cold
3. The one who endures suffering will be saved by the One Who chose to go through much worse things for all who trust in Him

Reflect:

1. Has following Jesus ever caused suffering to come into your life? How?
2. What expectations of your life has this passage led you to call into question?

Go further: Read Hebrews 12:4-17

1. In verse 4, to what extreme does the author of this letter say Christians sometimes have to go to fight against sin? Can you think of an example where avoiding sin was this difficult for someone?
2. In verses 5 and 6, the author quotes from Proverbs 3:11-12. Why does Solomon say that we should not reject the discipline of the Lord?
3. In verse 7, how does the author say God is treating us when He disciplines us?
4. In verse 8, what does the author say would be the case if God did not discipline us?
5. In verses 9 and 10, the author compares God to earthly fathers. Why does he say that God's discipline is better for us than theirs?
6. In verse 11, why does the author insist that we should submit to God's discipline?
7. Although the author uses physical imagery in verses 12 and 13, what do you think he is really trying to get his readers to do?
8. What specific examples of spiritual growth does the author list in verses 14-16?
9. How does the author present Esau as a negative example of spiritual maturity in verses 16 and 17?

Summary and Application:

1. Who would you trust to speak Biblically-based truth into your life? How could you invite that person to be honest with you?
2. How has God used difficult circumstances to help you become more like Jesus?
3. "If God loves those He disciplines, having an easy life might actually be a sign of God's indifference." What do you think about this statement, and how might it change your expectations?