

Jesus the Prophet

Appetizer: False prophets tell us what we want to hear. True prophets tell us what we need to hear. We would like Jesus to be the great positive thinker. Yet he came not only to bring peace to the troubled but trouble to those who are being lulled into false peace.

Discussion: Why do you think so many people are fascinated with prophecy----- biblical or otherwise?

Main Course: Read Matthew 24:1-31.

1. If you were a reporter assigned to cover Jesus' speech, what would be your headline?
2. The disciples asked "When?" (v. 3). Why do you think Jesus did not answer them more directly?
3. In verses 4 and 5 Jesus warns his disciples about being deceived. What are some marks of a deceiver (see Matthew 7:15-20; 1 John 4:1-6)?
4. For Jesus, history is very unstable (vv. 6-8). What signs of instability does he mention?
5. What will happen to Jesus' disciples and to others as the end approaches (vv. 9-13)?
6. What does it mean for us to "stand firm" (v.13) during difficult times?
7. As Jesus' followers watch for his return during those days, how can they tell the difference between false Christs and the true Christ (vv. 23-31)?
8. How can we "keep watch" and "be ready" for Jesus?

Dessert:

Read Matthew 24:32-51.

9. How can we apply the lesson of the fig tree (vv. 32-35) to the events preceding Christ's return?
10. How will the coming of Christ be like the days of Noah (vv. 36-41)?
11. What do the stories of the Homeowner and the servants teach us about the Lord's return (vv. 42-51)?