

Matthew 24 Series - John 11:48

Part 16 in the Series - The Importance of Death Has Been Destroyed

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Last week I prepared a song for the message, but the message went so long, I was unable to include the song. I guess I got so excited about the Words of Christ I just couldn't find a way to stop it. Here's another song from a childhood memory. I don't guess I ever knew this, but I read recently that this song is one of the most popular funeral songs. So here we are talking about how Christ destroyed death - and I choose the most popular funeral song for the message. Just goes to show, I guess, different perspectives on what people believe death really is. Listen now to, Just a Closer Walk with Thee.

Last week, we interrupted our Matthew 24 series to answer a question that came in by email concerning death and Fulfilled Bible Prophecy. There's simply no way that we could have covered everything the Scriptures say on the subject in just an hour or so.

But another email came in after the message was broadcast and the listener said he was grateful to hear these messages - because - quote - "It really has him thinking."

Well, praise God. That's the purpose of my preaching. Let's get people thinking about the Word - thinking about the things we've most likely been taught by the 501(c)(3) government preachers - and let's look at what Christ had to say and let's "see if these things be so."

I want you to see all the passages of Scripture that show the importance of the first century - the generation to whom Christ was sent to. I want you to see how that first century was the end of the Old Covenant age - and how that it was also the beginning of the New Covenant age.

The first century was a transition period where the most important events of the Old Covenant world took place - so important that the Scriptures say that ALL the Law of Moses and ALL the prophecies were fulfilled - in Christ.

If I said to you, make me a list of the most important things that occurred in the Old Covenant world - what would your list look like? Just think about it for just a few seconds.

Some people might say Creation. Some might say the parting of the Red Sea. Others

might say the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai. Some people might say the buildings of the temples.

I wonder how many of you said the birth of Christ? I wonder how many of you said the miracles that Christ performed? I wonder if any of you said the cross or the resurrection, or the Day of Pentecost.

Do you realize that every single word from Matthew 1:1 to Revelation 22:20 was written in the Old Covenant world? All of it was. The Old Covenant world - the Old Covenant age - the end of the world spoken of by Christ in Matthew 24:3 - the day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up - all of those things occurred in the Old Covenant world.

So of all the things we could list as having the most importance in the Old Covenant world - we really should have at the top of our list - everything relating to Christ. The generation - nation, time, place, people - that Christ was sent to - was - and I would say - by far - the most important time period in all of Yahweh's creation.

God's creation -

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.
The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

God's creation, which began a foundation, that then had the Law of God added to it, which contained the Will of God that God's people would allow His Rule in their lives with which Godly judges - qualified men who give their lives continually to the study of God's Law, His Word and His Will - would rule - would measure the activities of their lives by God's Will - then the Will of God revealed by His prophets that at the specified time - God would send His Own Son - the perfect King to implement His perfect Government on earth as it is in Heaven and the perfect Will of God for His creation was made flesh and dwelt among the men of God's creation - and that generation to whom the Son of God came - would be tasked with preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the whole known world at that time.

As we can see from the history of man as recorded in the Word of God, men have rarely yielded themselves to the Will of God for His Creation.

And for hundreds of years, God allowed that to happen. He allowed it to happen because everything that Old Covenant Israel went through - would eventually be used as examples to all those who would yield themselves to the Kingship of Christ and the Will of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Please listen very closely to these couple verses. They are found in Acts 17:

[30] And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

[31] Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

And listen closely to this, this is Acts 14

[15] And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

[16] Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

The days where God allowed Israel and the nations to walk in their own ways - was over. That system - was the Old World system and the birth, life, ministry, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and return of Christ in the end of the world - brought an end to the system where God allowed men to have their own governments.

Follow me here. When God led the children of Israel out of Egypt, he told Moses how to Govern His people. They were to set up qualified, Godly judges who were continually giving themselves to the study of the Law of God and they were to judge accordingly.

But as it was, the people rebelled and told the prophet to give them a "king like all the other nations." They did NOT want the Government of God to be in place because they had decided that they knew better than their Creator.

Why did God allow the Israelites to build a golden calf when Moses was on Mt. Sinai?

I'll tell you why. So that today - right now - people with even half a brain to think with - could look back on that day and say, "What a bunch of idiots those Israelites were! And no way are we going to make the same choices."

Today, we have the completed Word of God in our hands and we can read about how God created the heaven and the earth - just by speaking them into existence.

We can look up into the sky and see His handiwork and know that the same God that created all this - is the same God Whom we claim to serve.

This is the same God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk across on dry land and then God closed the Sea on the enemy pursuers who wanted the Israelites to return to their slavery.

This is the same God who delivered Goliath into the hand of young David. This is the same God who delivered Daniel from the mouth of the lions and who delivered Hananiah, Azariah and Mishrael from the burning furnace.

We can read about all these things from the Scriptures and see what happens when people obey God - and we can see what happens when people choose not to obey God. We can call those Israelites stupid for choosing a golden calf instead of Yahweh - we can see people choosing Caesar instead of Christ - and then what do we do? Unbelievably, we make the same stupid choices they did. And why? Because of unbelief, which produces fear - which produces wrong choices.

I was reading about a debate that was going on between two preachers and the subject was death. By the time I had read several pages of the debate, I literally had a headache from what they were saying.

Then, about that time, I got a text from Jeff Thomas and he simply said,

"We don't know what death really is...and that we shouldn't use the word in the way that we're accustomed so. Perhaps 'sleep' should become the new word for 'death' when used in that manner."

And to that, I couldn't agree more.

In thinking more on the subject of death, and why Christ made such a big deal with his statement in raising Lazarus, I feel that it is important to tie up some loose ends from last week. As I said earlier, I'm glad that you are thinking. I'm glad that you are thinking about the implications of Fulfilled Bible Prophecy.

Now I said all that I have said so far, for this reason, we need to look very closely at why Christ made such a big deal out of His Words -

"Whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die."

And we need to look at it again in light of what we have talked about concerning the Will of God for His creation - namely that His people are Governed by the Authority of King Jesus which means choosing out from among us ONLY QUALIFIED MEN who may Rule / Measure all of our affairs of live - according to the perfect Will of God found in His Law, His Statutes and His Word - in called out - Christian ecclesias - communities.

Look with me please to Matthew 2 and we'll begin in verse 1.

[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

[2] Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

I can't read this text without making mention of the fact that even in our modern English Bible - when the text refers to Herod the king - the word king has a small k. When the text refers to the King of the Jews - Christ - the word king is a capital k. The implications of this as they connect with I Peter 2:13-17 are immense and if you do not already know what I'm talking about, I'd ask to you go to my website at www.godsendusmen.com and read the information on the Home page.

Continuing now with verse 3.

[3] When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

[4] And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

I think we may have overlooked something very important when we have read these two verses in the past. Herod was not asking the preachers and the scribes where Jesus of Nazareth was born. He did not know that Jesus of Nazareth was the One Who was born the King of Israel.

Demanding where "Christ" should be born - Herod was talking about the title "Christ." Yes, Herod was looking for Jesus the Christ, the King of Israel - but Herod did not know Who the King was at that time. He just knew that the Christ - the Messiah - the King - had been born.

So the preachers began their betrayal of Jesus right at the start. Amazing. I'm telling you today, that if you find a preacher whose first allegiance is to man's government, you better run as fast and as far as you can. In that regard, nothing has changed from those men in 2,000 years.

The Israelite midwives in Egypt had more backbone and courage than most of the preachers have ever had.

[5] And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

[6] And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

You should see right here, that Herod's only inquiry into the matter was because he sensed a threat to his earthly power. Herod was not threatened by a baby - but what

the title for that baby was - and that someday that baby would grow up and lay claim to that title. And that's what Herod was so upset about. I hope you realize that although Herod was the king of Judea - he was the king of Judea not because he was heir to the throne of David - but because he was appointed by Rome to that position.

The birth of the Christ was a perceived threat to the power of Rome.

[7] Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

[8] And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Stinking liar. Again, here's a huge lesson that we should learn. When the politician wants to make it look like he is on the side of King Jesus - you better watch out. Men who believe that they are capable of dominating other men and telling men what to do and what not to do - are not the friend of God. They will use God or Jesus only for purposes that suit their goals and we need to learn from the examples shown in the Word of God.

These are eternal principles and perfect examples that not one Word was written to us - but every Word was written for us.

[9] When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

[10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

[11] And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

[12] And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

[13] And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

[14] When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

[15] And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

[16] Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

I hope this passage made you smile as it did me. And I'm specifically referring to Herod realizing he had been mocked by the wise men. You see, when you have a face to face meeting with THE KING - you quickly forget about the imposters. Herod was an imposter. Herod was put in his position to Fulfill Bible Prophecy and was there to be used as an example as to what God thinks of men like him in comparison to Him is the Only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Now verse 17:

[17] Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,
[18] In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

This creep, Herod, went on and killed all the young boys under the age of two in an attempt to kill the King - the Christ.

We do not know how many babies Herod killed - because he thought his earthly power was going to be brought down.

One day John the Baptist went to the earthly king and told him that he was not above the Law of God. And the king murdered John the Baptist. The Kingship of Christ had cost John the Baptist his life.

Did the followers of Christ know that Herod had murdered all those babies? Did the followers of Christ know that Herod had murdered John the Baptist - whose message was,

"Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand?"

I believe we can easily answer "Yes, yes they knew."

Did the disciples have a measure of boldness and trust in Jesus and trust in the Law of Moses and the prophets?

Once again, I believe we can answer, "Yes."

With each miracle that Christ performed in front of them, I believe their strength and their faith increased.

But I also believe that in their humanity, knowing what happens to people who an earthly king perceives is a threat - was always in the back of their minds.

Turn with me please to Mark chapter 5. Let's examine a couple of miracles that Jesus performed - ending with another raising of the dead.

Verse 1:

[1] And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

[2] And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

[3] Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

[4] Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

[5] And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

[6] But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

[7] And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

[8] For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

[9] And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

[10] And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

[11] Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

[12] And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

[13] And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

[14] And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

[15] And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

[16] And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.

[17] And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

After this miracle, they began to ask Jesus to depart out of their coasts? I wonder why. Wasn't this a great thing that Jesus had done?

I do not have the time to go into this today - but there are some excellent teachings on this subject where it is said that Christ actually did this to a segment of the Roman army. "Legions" were what the segments of the Roman army were called. There is some fascinating reading about this and I'll just leave that to you if you want to look at it for yourself.

Verse 18:

[18] And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

[19] Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

You see, when you meet THE KING, you really want to stay with Him. But if the King wants you to do something besides what you want to do - you just obey the King.

[20] And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

[21] And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.

[22] And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

[23] And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

One of the most beautiful things in the Scriptures are in the details. I've often told people that in order to really grasp what is going on in the Word, we need to place ourselves in the shoes of the people we are reading about.

Dads, did you see what I'm talking about here? He didn't just say "my daughter." But he said, "My little daughter..." I've got 3 daughters. They range in age from 15 to 28. I wouldn't want to be in Jairus situation with any of my daughters, but this was happening to Jairus "little daughter."

[24] And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

[25] And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

[26] And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

You know, we could stop right there and talk for a little while, but I won't. But there might be something right there that will give you something else to think about.

[27] When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

[28] For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

[29] And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

[30] And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

[31] And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

[32] And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

[33] But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

[34] And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Wow. What an event. Her faith had made her whole. She wanted to touch the King. She felt that if she could just touch the King, she could be healed. The most she could do was touch his clothing - and she was healed. It wasn't the touch of the clothing - it was her faith. Where is your faith today? Do you have faith in the King of kings and Lord of lords? Is He your King today?

All these things that we are reading, though not one Word was written to us - all of it was written for us. This Jesus that healed the sick and raised the dead - is the same Jesus asking us today to allow His Kingship in our lives.

Verse 35:

[35] While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

[36] As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Do you see it here? Jesus was once again waiting until the news of death had been delivered, before He made His next move. He's making statements. He's setting precedent. He's not just doing this for drama. It has a very specific reason.

[37] And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

This is going right back to what we talked about last week. These events, these statements, though it did not hurt for the whole world to see - but the important thing here is that He was specifically showing these things to His disciples setting them up for the strength and foundation they were going to need to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world.

[38] And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

[39] And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

[40] And they laughed him to scorn.

I'm so glad that our King is not petty. He's very serious about His business. I'm sure most of us in our humanity, would have said, "Okay, if you think this is so funny and you want to mock me, I'll just leave. You're on your own." But Jesus didn't do that. He was on a mission. However, the next part of this verse is interesting.

But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

Apparently, the father and the mother were not participating in the laughing and the mocking. Christ got rid of the mockers. He removed the faithless from the room. I wonder how that went down. I wonder how they went from mocking Him to obeying Him. My guess is that Jairus probably told them to leave. If so, by Jairus telling them to obey Christ and leave, that was a demonstration of the faith that he had in believing Christ. That's pure conjecture, but it's interesting to me. Verse 41:

[41] And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

[42] And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

[43] And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

Now I admit, I have no understanding as to why he told them not to tell anyone. As soon as everyone saw the girl living again, everyone was going to associate the arrival of Christ with the resurrection of this little girl. And in other passages the Scriptures say that Christ told them not to say anything - but they did it anyway.

I am still inclined to believe that it was most important for the disciples to understand what was going on - and again - because of the awesome task that awaited them in their very near future.

In order for them to preach the Kingdom of Christ - all fear of death needed to be removed. For them to have all the boldness and confidence to preach that there is another King, One Jesus - they had to be convinced that all the promises that Jesus had made to them - would indeed - be fulfilled.

I believe this was accomplished. And this is why, in such a short period of time - the Scriptures say these men turned the world upside down for King Jesus.

Look with me to Mark 8.

This is another passage of Scripture where Jesus fed a multitude of people with just few loaves of bread. He also healed a blind man in this chapter.

Look with me at verse 27 and let's look at the conversation between Jesus and His disciples after these events had taken place.

[27] And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

[28] And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

[29] And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

Alright. Very important that we stop right here for just a minute. I need to remind you again - and again - again - if necessary - who the disciples thought Jesus was. Peter answered - "Thou art the Christ."

A common misconception that people have is that the name of our King is Jesus Christ. No, His name is Yeshua or Jesus. There is debate over this issue and for now - that's not the purpose of this message. At some point, maybe, but not now. "Christ" is not the Saviour's last name - as some suppose. The word Christ is His title. In the Greek, the word means "anointed."

I ask you - knowing that when the disciples found Jesus - or when He found them - they said, "We have found Him of Whom Moses and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Israel." And knowing themselves - and of course they had to know because of what they wrote in their gospels - that this Jesus was of the lineage of king David and was a rightful heir to the throne - what did they mean by calling Him - Christ the Anointed One? He was King. And they knew it. He was the Messiah - prophesied by

Moses and all the prophets. He was the King of Israel. The kings in Israel had to be properly anointed and this Jesus was.

Verse 30.

[30] And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.

[31] And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

[32] And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

[33] But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

Let's stop here for a second. We talked last week about "Satan, the devil" being destroyed under the feet of the Roman Christians - and shortly. I made the statement that I don't really believe anyone can say definitively what the entity Satan, or the devil, or Lucifer as some like to bring up - I don't really believe anyone can say with all assuredness what that was. And here, we have the Christ calling Peter - Satan. At this point, Peter was being an adversary to Jesus, and Jesus let him have it.

Verse 34. Now listen very closely. I realize that these verses were spoken to a specific group of people and at a specific time and place in the history of mankind - but - I believe the principles taught here are eternal principles. I believe they apply even for today.

If we want to see our society and world change for the better - we are going to need to see men step up with the type of faith and courage described here. I'm telling you today - Jesus is NOT coming back to this earth to fight our battles for us. Nearly all of the world of so-called "Christianity" believes that we are in a holding pattern - a waiting mode - and some day Jesus will return and set all things straight.

Listen to me - things are going to continue to get worse and worse - not until some false messiah comes - but until men will understand that the Messiah already came - He already completed the office of Messiah - and He is now King of kings and Lord of lords and is looking for men to believe in Him and preach and live His Kingdom just like He gave it to His disciples, 2,000 years ago.

Yes! It's a difficult task. Yes, it's going to be painful - but not because it's God's fault. It's OUR fault because we have followed after false Jesus's - false messiahs - and a false futuristic gospel that resembles absolutely nothing of the Gospel delivered to the saints. We will not have the same promises of supernatural deliverance that the first century believes had - but we do have the promise that Whosoever liveth and believeth

in Him - shall never die. If our eyes close once and for all in the service of our King - it's just like going to sleep. And I have all confidence to say that today - if we are absent from our bodies - we will be present with our Lord.

Verse 34.

[34] And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

[35] For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

[36] For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

[37] Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

[38] Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Once again, here is Fulfilled Bible Prophecy screaming at us - right in our faces - if we'll just accept the words of Christ.

Time, place, nation - He addresses the generation that He was sent to - just as plainly as He possible could do it - and He talks about His coming in the glory of His Father with the holy angels - and He's not talking about a period of 2,000 plus years in the future.

Christ is teaching His disciples not to fear physical death. That obstacle had to be removed - that obstacle has to be removed today - in order for God's people to have the confidence and boldness to preach and live the Kingdom of God today in the faithless, God hating society that we live in today.

Mark 9:1 - This is the parallel passage to Matthew 16 -

[1] And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Did Jesus lie to His disciples? Wow, I just don't know how we can read these verses, putting ourselves in the shoes of those who were hearing the words of Christ, seeing His ministry, seeing all this first hand - and then say with a clear conscience - No, Christ did not intend for His disciples to receive the promise He so clearly laid out for them.

How can we do this? How can we say such things?

As I was looking at the word "Christ" again, I went to go look and see what the "religious crowd" thinks about that word.

Here's a little something that I found that was interesting:

Quote - In Christianity, Christ (Greek: Χριστός, Christós, meaning "the anointed one") is a title for the saviour and redeemer who would bring salvation to the whole House of Israel.

Endquote - Did He do this? Matthew 1:

[21] And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

[22] Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

[23] Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

[24] Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

[25] And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Back to the Quote:

Christians believe Jesus is the Israelite Messiah foretold in both the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. Christ, used by Christians as both a name and a title, is synonymous with Jesus.

The role of the Christ in Christianity originated from the concept of the Messiah in Judaism. Although the conceptions of the messiah in each religion are similar, for the most part they are distinct from one another due to the split of early Christianity and Judaism in the 1st century.

Though the original followers of Jesus believed Jesus to be the Jewish Messiah, e.g. in the Confession of Peter, before the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus was usually referred to as "Jesus of Nazareth" or "Jesus, son of Joseph". Jesus came to be called "Jesus Christ" (meaning "Jesus the Christós", i.e. "Jesus the Messiah" or "Jesus the Anointed") by his followers after his crucifixion and resurrection.

Endquote:

Is this true? What about John 1:49?

"Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel."

What about the passage we just read in Mark 8? "Thou art the Christ."

What about when Christ was riding into Jerusalem and the throngs of people cried out, "Hosanna to the King?"

What about when the wise men from the east came asking, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?"

Back to the Quote:

Christians believe that the messianic prophecies were fulfilled in his mission, death, and resurrection. The Pauline epistles, the earliest texts of the New Testament, often refer to Jesus as "Christ Jesus" or "Christ". The word Christ was originally a title, but later became part of the name "Jesus Christ". It is also used as a title, in the reciprocal use "Christ Jesus", meaning "the Messiah Jesus", and independently as "the Christ".

Endquote.

Who changed that title to become part of a name? Who had the authority to do such a thing? It's obvious who changed the title to part of the name. The unbelieving Jews, the chief priests, the 501(c)(3) government preachers, the futurists, and all those who are looking for a coming king or a coming messiah.

I'll tell you who did not change the title to a name - and that was the first century saints who - with every breath of life they had them preached that this same Jesus, Whom you crucified and hung on a tree, hath God made both Lord and Christ.

Back to quote:

The followers of Jesus became known as Christians (as in Acts 11:26) because they believed Jesus to be the *Khristós* or *Mashiach* prophesied in the Hebrew Bible.

Now listen closely...

Jesus was not, and is not, accepted in Judaism as a Jewish messiah, and the concept of a divine messiah was always rejected by Judaism as idolatry. Religious Jews still await their messiah's first coming and the Messianic prophecies of Jewish tradition to be accomplished. Religious Christians believe in the Second Coming of Christ, and they await the rest of Christian messianic prophecies to be fulfilled. One of those prophecies, distinctive in both the Jewish and Christian concept of the messiah, is that a Jewish king from the Davidic line, who will be "anointed" with holy anointing oil, will be king of God's kingdom on earth, and rule the Jewish people and mankind during the Messianic Age and World to come. Muslims accept Jesus as *al-Masih*, the messiah in Islam, and believe he will come again, but don't believe that the messiah is divine or the Son of God.

Endquote.

There you go. This is what everything I've been trying to say in the Matthew 24 series boils down. Was Jesus of Nazareth - born 2,000 years ago - was He the Messiah or was He not? Who are you going to believe? Who are you going to put your faith in? Friends, I'm telling you this is serious business. Futurism is just not a perspective on the Scriptures. It's a teaching of a "jesus" that is different from the Jesus that the apostles preached.

I have shown you over and over how that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies. He didn't just fulfill some of them - He fulfilled them all.

I'm telling you today that the reason why the world is in the shape it's in today is because it has had preached to it a false, powerless gospel centered around a false, powerless jesus.

We will not see anything but evil continue to thrive until we learn Who Jesus was, what His purpose in coming was - and that was to put an end to the Old Covenant system - which included the obvious - yes - the doing away with the sacrificial system - but more importantly - He did away with the earthly king system - and God the Father crowned His Son to be King of kings and Lord of lords and He alone is our Lawgiver and Potentate. Until we understand this, and implement these truths in our lives and in our families and in our communities - we will get no where for the cause of Christ.

This is not a message of doom and gloom. This is the message of hope - it's the hope of Israel - the Kingdom of God - in that God will revenge disobedience when OUR obedience is fulfilled. We can make a difference. We can make a change. Preaching and living the truth of the present day reality of the Kingdom of God STILL has the power to turn the world upside down.

Now, in the day in which we live, preaching and living the Gospel of the Kingdom of God has become a dangerous proposition.

Though compelling ALL MEN everywhere to submit to the Kingship of Christ should not be considered a threat to any man - sadly - evil men who want to rule and dominate over other men with their statutes - see this as a threat. And they will not lay down their power - *it's not authority* - it's not God ordained authority - it is simply power at the barrel of a gun - but they will not bow the knee to Christ because they do not want His Rule on earth as it is in heaven.

So, yes, it can be dangerous to be a follower of Christ today. We live in a world where even the mention of the name of Christ - I'm not talking about the genuine service to the King - I'm talking about just the mere mention of the name of Jesus can bring cruel mockings and persecution.

But again, I submit to you that it is nobody's fault but ours. We were sold a bill of goods with the bill of rights and our great great grandfathers and our fathers fell for trading the Government of God for the government of men - and we are doing nothing to stop the sins of the fathers from passing to the children.

Not only have we traded the Kingship of Christ for a "government like all the other nations" but we have allowed the true Kingdom of God to be turned into something called "church" for today - and futurism for tomorrow.

We've been neutralized today because of the false gospel of futurism and an unbiblical understanding of what death is. The life and ministry of Jesus has lost its power and effectiveness to change our lives and somehow, somehow, we've got to get it. We've got to get even a small amount of the courage and boldness that those who walked with the King of kings and Lord of lords had - in our lives.

It begins with a firm commitment to read the words of Christ - understand who those words were written to - time, place, and nation - and then believe the simple truth that Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand - meant exactly that. The Kingdom of God came in full power and glory to His disciples in that very first generation - just like He told them it would.

Then, with that belief, we can begin to take steps of faith based on that belief. Then, the righteousness of God will be revealed to us - from faith to faith. I've heard so many people ask, "What are we supposed to do? Where do we start?" Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Let's begin to renew our minds by simply believing the words of Christ - and then allow the Holy Spirit of God to show us what to do with the understanding that the Kingdom of God - in all its fullness - is a present day reality today.