Fear of Global Calamity
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Matthew 24: 6-14

**Introduction:** Nature is a pregnant creation, third trimester heavy. When a tornado rips through a city in Kansas or an earthquake flattens a region in Pakistan, this is more than barometric changes or shifts of ancient fault lines. The universe is passing through the final hours before delivery. Painful contractions are in the forecast. ~ Max Lucado

**Big Idea:** The world is in crisis but Jesus tells us we are not to be alarmed, it is part of God’s plan.

Matthew 24: 6-14 “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

**Memory Verse:** “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed.” - Matthew 24:6
I. The world is full of calamity; Earth’s long-term forecast is stormy.

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars” Matt 24:6

“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.” Matt 24:7

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.” Matt 24:9

Sitting on the Mount of Olives, in full view of the temple and City of David, Jesus issued a “buckle your seat belt, no kidding, life can be fatal to your health” warning. ~ Max Lucado

“These things must come to pass” Matt 24:6

II. How do Christ followers respond to this global calamity?

A. We can live our lives ________________.

Over preparation leads to obsession

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” - Ephesians 4:29

B. We can live our lives ________________.

"Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware,” - Luke 21:34 NLT
C. Stand Firm, unalarmed, calm

“Real courage embraces the twin realities of current difficulty and ultimate triumph.” ~ Max Lucado

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. - Psalm 27:3 ESV

If we are obsessed or oblivious, we are definitely distracted from God’s plan. That is just were the enemy wants us ineffective and distracted. MT

III. Prepared for the night watch

Homework: Read Matthew Chapters 24 & 25
Ask God to speak to you as you read

A. We must reinforce the _______________of our beliefs.

“See to it that you are not alarmed” Matt 24:6

“Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives” - 2 Peter 3:11

“How sturdy are the bolts of your belief? Reinforce them with daily Bible readings, regular worship, and earnest communication with God.” ~ Max Lucado

B. We are not to be fearful, but _______________of Christ’s return.
"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” - Matthew 24:42

“Watch out that no one deceives you” – Matt 24:4

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2

“Courage is fear that has said its prayers” ~ Max Lucado

III. God’s plan and our purpose

Global calamity should ________________ us to witness to others about Christ.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” - Matthew 24:14

“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” - 2 Peter 3:8

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” - 2 Peter 3:9

For info on unreached people of the world: joshuaproject.net

Conclusion: I know one thing Christ has not returned yet; therefore the task is not yet done. When it is done, Christ will come. Our responsibility is not to insist on defining the terms of our task; our responsibility is to complete it. So long as Christ does not return, our work is undone. Let us get busy and complete our mission. ~ George Ladd