Making Disciples

Notes for Session Twenty-Five

The End Times and New Beginning

Session Goals

1. The disciple will recall three events connected with Jesus coming again.
2. The disciple will describe one or two things that will be evident in the last days.
3. The disciple will name two or three things that will occur during the millennium.

Begin the session praying together and reviewing the Action Steps from the previous week. The leader of the group should pray with individuals who had difficulty applying the information from last week. Thank God where there were successes in the implementation.

The Beginning

God made man to love and to love Him in return. He wanted a place to fellowship with man, first in the garden, then in a tabernacle and then in a temple. Because of sin God's plan required the blood of His perfect son, Jesus. His plan is still to redeem us and the whole earth so we can finally live with Him in His kingdom.

Genesis 2:7 "Then the Lord God formed the man of the dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."

Genesis 3:8 "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden." (after they sinned)

Genesis 3:23 "...therefore the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken."

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Numbers 7:89 "Now when Moses went into the Tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of one speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim. Thus, He spoke to him."

When Jesus was crucified the curtain that separated the holiest part of the temple from the rest was torn symbolizing there was no longer a separation from God.

Matthew 27:51 "Then behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked and the rocks were split,"

The Last Days

Christians will act. The most difficult and best days are ahead according to scripture.

Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Daniel 11:32 "…but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits."

Acts 2:17 "In the last days. God says, 'I will pour out my spirit on all people; your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.'"

2 Timothy 3:1-5 "But mark this, there will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people."

Matthew 24:22 "If those days had not been cut short no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened."

Dangers of the Last Days

2 Timothy 3:1-9 "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth, men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was."

The Return of Jesus

1. Jesus breaks through the sky.
2. Comes to earth.
3. He establishes His capital in Jerusalem and His Kingdom on Earth

Isaiah 42:9 "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare before they spring forth, I tell you of them."

Matthew 24:36 "But about that day or hour no one knows. Not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the father."

Matthew 24:44 "So you also must be ready, because the son of man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."

Revelation 22:20 "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

Revelation 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me to give to everyone according to his work."

Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him."

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an Archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words."

The Resurrection of the Dead in Christ

To the thief on the cross who repented Jesus said.

Luke 23:43 "And He said to him, Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." His spirit went to heaven.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 "And the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

Luke 16:22 "The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, God will bring with him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an Archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words."

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with Him for a thousand years."

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life."

John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,'"

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

We can have the same attitude as Paul towards death;

2 Corinthians 5:8 "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

Philippians 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

The Millennial Reign

Jesus will reign for a thousand years with His people and the devil, and his demons will be bound. He will restore the Earth.

Revelation 20:1-3 "Then I saw an Angel descending from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a huge chain. He seized the dragon- the ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan- and tied him up for one thousand years. The angel then threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it so that he could not deceive the nations until the one thousand years were finished. (After these things he must be released for a brief period of time.)"

Acts 3:21 "Whom heaven must receive (Jesus) until the time comes of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

Revelation 20:4-5 "Then I saw the Thrones and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection."

Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Luke 1:32-33 "He will be great, and will be called the son of the highest, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the House of Jacob forever and of his Kingdom there shall be no end."

The Final Judgment

Revelation 20:7-10 "Now, when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and

surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Revelation 22:12 "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me and I will give to each person according to what they have done."

Hebrews 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,"

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels."

Revelation 21:8 "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Matthew 25:46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Revelation 20:11-13 "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From His presence, earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and the books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them according to what they had done."

Revelation 20:14 "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death in the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:15 "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

The New Heaven and the New Earth

Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away."

Revelation 21:1-5 "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven's saying, 'Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

Then he who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And he said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'"

Revelation 21:22-24 "But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light. And the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it."

Action Steps

- Read the first two chapters of Genesis and the last two chapters of Revelation, write down anything those passages have revealed about Jesus' return. Share with us next week. Read Daniel if you want to learn more.

- Make a note of anything in the news this week that makes you think we are in the end times. Tell us what you have seen or read.