
Matthew Chapter 23

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever been the victim of relentless false accusation, lies or some other kind of torment? How did it feel to be mischaracterized and lied about? What did you do about the situation? Explain.

- b. Have you ever been warned about someone who was supposedly a bad person and then found out that they were actually nothing like what you were told? How did it make you feel to know that you evaluated that person's character for yourself rather than just believing rumors? Explain.

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Yikes! This chapter is one long rant against the Pharisees and their arrogance and greed and then at the end Jesus seems distressed over how all of Jerusalem and its people have come to such a place of apostasy. He obviously knew that in just a little while the leaders of the people would call for His execution as the crowds would be chanting, "crucify Him!" Do you think this may have been part of what was on Jesus' mind at this time? Why/why not?

Do you think that Jesus may have also been getting a little frustrated because He knew His time was short and so many of the people were still not understanding or caring about what He had to say? Why/why not?

Do you ever wish you could see the future as Jesus could? Why/why not? Do you think it would be exciting or depressing?

How would you feel if you knew you were about to be killed by the people you had been sent to save?

Would there be any consolation in the fact that you would be seeing your Father again soon and enjoying the comforts of heaven? Do you think that even crossed Jesus mind? Why/why not?

Is it hard for you to see the good things that you know are coming in your life when you are in the midst of chaos and trouble? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Sit down and try to imagine in detail what heaven will be like. Write an essay, draw a picture or do whatever it takes to imagine a perfect world where there will only be happiness and love. Discuss this future world with others and share ideas of what it may be like. Try to think of ways that you can remind yourself of your future life with Jesus every day.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus to remind you of the goal of reaching heaven every day. Pray over Hebrews 12:1-3 every day for the next couple of weeks until you have it memorized