

Making All Things New: A Greater World

When the first explorers discovered the Americas they believed they had stumbled upon a whole new world – a primitive untouched land without the taint of European politics and culture. The words of Jesus to the disciples must have seemed no less surprising and unbelievable as he talked about the setting up of his kingdom. Herod's temple upgrades continued for nearly 60 years and were still in process in Jesus day. The improvements to the temple started the conversation between Jesus and his disciples. The disciples were marveling at the beauty of the temple when Jesus reminded them of the clash of kingdoms that would leave these stones so recently replaced strewn all over with no two stones stacked upon another. Jesus vision for the world included so much more than a mere temple upgrade. Jesus had come to introduce a brand-new world filled with new people as announced in Revelation 21:5, "*Behold, I make all things new!*"

In his last temptation, the Devil offered Jesus the world and a way around the cross if Jesus would merely bow to him – the reigning prince of this world. This may have been the only real temptation of the three and Jesus might have fallen for it if he had only come to take over Satan's kingdom, but in truth he came to introduce a whole new world – a world in which God would be king and where everyone and everything is in sync with God for his glory.

Journey Together:

- 1). What do you look forward to most about Jesus kingdom?
- 2). What are your greatest fears about the return of Christ?
- 3). What do you want others to know about Jesus' new world order?

Road Map: Read Matthew 24 & 25

- 4). What prompted the discussion between Jesus and the disciples about the destruction of the temple? What was the connection between the destruction of the temple and the preceding chapter on the woes of the Pharisees?
- 5). What are some of the signs that point to the nearness of his coming? How many of these signs have already taken place?

6). What is the main sign that we are to look for in the setting up of his kingdom?

7). Jesus tells four stories about being prepared for his coming:

- Unjust Steward
- Ten Virgins
- Investing the Kings Gold
- The Sheep and the Goats

What are these stories about? How are they different from one another? How are they similar? How do they help us prepare?

8). According to Jesus answer to his final sermon how are we to prepare for his coming? What is our role for ushering in Jesus kingdom?

9). Why are you most excited about the return of Christ and what preparations do you still need to make to be ready?

Discipleship challenge: Jesus is challenging us to prepare and be engaged for a new world order. Practice the sixth competency of discipleship a *Greater World* under Rabbi Jesus this week by imagining the world under the Lordship of Christ and by reminding someone about His vision for the world.

10). How can this group pray for you right now?

My Journey:

- 1). How has God been using *Journey* in your life this week to do *Great Things* for Him?
- 2). How has God been helping you set up for his kingdom?
- 3). How can this group pray for you today?