

CSI Congregation of Hudson Valley  
Youth Fellowship-2005

**February Youth Bible Study Synopsis**

Topic: Eschatology- Jesus' teachings on end times

Place: Sanju and Jibi's house

Date: Friday, February 18, 2005

Time: 7:00pm

The 2005 February Bible Study was held on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas S. Cherian. The topic chosen for the Bible study was "Jesus' teachings on end times." The Bible study started at 7:50pm. 13 members including Achen were present. Vinu Abraham, Reena Abraham, Divya Jacob, and Smitha Thampi were also present bringing the total attendance to 17.

We started with an opening prayer led by Lenu Mathew and sang 5 songs before proceeding to the Bible Study. The two speakers who volunteered were:

- 1) Mathew 24:29-51 - Sanju Cherian
- 2) Luke 21:20-28 - Asha John
- 3) Mark 13 - Achen

Sanju started by giving us three questions for us to ask ourselves:

- 1) Will Jesus come back?
- 2) When will Jesus come back?
- 3) What difference will this be in our lives?

1) Will Jesus come back?--A recent survey taken showed that 61% believed that Jesus would come back in their lifetime. John 14:3 promises that Jesus will come back but doesn't say a specific time when he would come back.

2) When will Jesus come back? (Matthew 24:4-14 gives three signs for the end times.)

a) False things (verses 4,5). False prophets will arise; some examples included Jim Jones in Guyana (1978), David Koresh in Waco, TX.

b) Natural disasters throughout the world (verses 6-13). Hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, etc. Verse 8 says this will only be the beginning. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1- "Terrible things". Verse 12 says that love will grow cold during this time and love will die.

c) A sign will appear (Verse 14). It will increase people to communicate about God to each other and there will be an abundant growth of churches in countries. This will show the love of Jesus.

3) What difference will this be in our lives?—1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians says to encourage each other. We all need to encourage each other and live a pure life. We must try to turn ourselves to God. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 9:10 – God doesn't want everyone to be left behind, we must try to save ourselves.

Asha was next and stated that before anything big happens, God warns us ahead of time. Examples included the great flood during Noah's time, star was sent before Jesus was before. There will be a sign that will appear to us and we must be ready for Jesus. Luke 21:21-24 talks about the destruction of the temple. Jesus spoke about the destruction beforehand and the people who didn't listen to God were killed. Verse 24 says that God's promise is that this will never happen again.

Luke 21:25-28 talks about the signs of the coming of Jesus. During this time, disciples were not thinking about the death of Christ because they were living in the present. Verses 25, 26 gives signs in the sun, moon, and stars. The whole world will see light during this time of darkness. Verse 28- Parable of the Fig Tree. Heaven and earth will pass away but Jesus won't.

Jesus will be coming back again, and thus we must not ignore the signs given to us. These words are not for us to be scared but for a time of rejoicement when Jesus comes back again. The greatest gift is our redemption to Christ himself. In the end, we will all recognize the signs.

Achen went last and said that these three synoptic gospel portions almost say the same thing. Both Matthew and Luke followed the teachings of Mark and that is why we almost read the same things in the three passages. In Mark 13, we see the disciples inquiring about the end. Whenever Jesus spoke, his disciples asked questions and these are like conversations between Jesus and the disciples. The temple referred to in Mark 13 was first built by Solomon and in seven years he completed and dedicated the temple. This same temple was then destroyed by Nebchadnezzar. After 70-72 years, Ezra rebuilds the Temple. When Jesus was starting his ministry, the temple was still being rebuilt. In a way, we are the temple of God. He has created us as a temple (body, mind, soul).

Toward his end, Jesus concentrated about the end times. Jesus taught his disciples that he will come back. His first promise was that the church will be established, then the Holy Spirit will come down, and finally Jesus himself will come back. Christ will come back, but we don't know when. Jesus clearly said that we are not to find out the date of his return. Only the Father knows the exact time. Even though God has not given a date, he has given clues (false prophets, natural disasters, etc.). Jesus said that we need to believe. John 14:3-He will come back and direct us. What are the things we should do before Christ comes back?

- 1) We must be ready
- 2) We must continue to spread the Gospel
- 3) We will endure trials
- 4) We must be ready to wait patiently

We cannot give up, only be patient because God has proclaimed that he will come back. The next step is focusing on this second coming. When Jesus first came, he was humble and healed and raised people from the dead. Now, when Jesus comes, he will come for the church, he won't heal: he's coming for the glory. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9-10 says that God wants everyone to be saved. Achen opened the floor up for questions and Ajo asked in Matthew 24:34 "what generation is Jesus referring to? Achen said that his second coming will happen and the same people will come back.

We then proceeded to prayer time as Justin asked for prayer requests and three people prayed with Achen saying the concluding prayer and benediction. The prayer requests were:

- Justin: Pray for Achen and Kochamma and their children back home in India
- Vinu: Pray for Robin Samuel (Rockland) who is serving in Iraq
- Jibi: Pray for their cousin, Bobby, so that he finds work in America and can stay
- Justin: Pray for both Hudson Valley and Rockland churches and the upcoming conferences
- Reena: Pray for Bency and Benoy's uncle who passed away recently
- Asha: Pray for her friend's friend who is suffering from a brain tumor

The Bible study ended at 9:15pm. Mr. Cherian Thomas created a sheet about our day by day relationship with God and it was given to all who were present. Afterwards, Achen said the next topic in this ongoing series will be "Rapture" and the two portions to concentrate are 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:20-28. Dinner was served afterwards by the host family.

For his Glory,

Justin Cherian  
Youth Secretary