

JESUS IS COMING, BE READY!

JULY 11, 2021

WORSHIP

Here to Eternity,
Blessed Assurance
(My King is Coming),
How Great is Your love

WELCOME

How do you prepare
to go on a date or to
meet someone you
love?

WORD

1 PETER 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

MATTHEW 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

(READ MATTHEW 24 AND 25:1-30 AHEAD OF TIME)

Today, we discuss Matthew 24 and what Jesus has to say about the end times. The disciples asked Jesus "When are these things going to happen?", "When are you coming back?", "What are the signs?". These are specific questions and Jesus responded to them in **Matthew 24:1-2**.

King Herod started the renovation of the temple in 19 B.C. and it was completed in 63 A.D. After spending all that money to rebuild the temple, here now was Jesus saying "**not one stone here will be left upon another**". That was a prophecy. History tells us that when the Roman government got so angry with the rebelling Jewish people, they sent General Titus to take over Jerusalem. The Romans killed over a million Jews and the temple got burned down (70 A.D.). When Jesus says something, it will surely happen. That is the backdrop of this prophecy: the certainty of the destruction of that temple.

The second coming of Jesus is so important that He taught them to His disciples. His teaching serves the following purposes not only for His disciples but for all of us:

1. PROTECT (Matthew 24:4-8)

Jesus wanted to protect his disciples **Matthew 24:4-5**. He warned them not to let anyone mislead them when he claims he is the "Christ". Today, when people believe the claims that a certain person is the savior, it's a dangerous belief because you are risking your entire future by believing in the wrong person. Thus, it is important to know prophecy to protect us. The truth is these things must take place but that is not yet the end (**vv.6-8**). They are merely the beginning of birth pangs, but the end is nearer than we think.

We thought that after World II and the establishment of the United Nations, we'll have less wars. On the contrary, what Jesus said is coming true. Today, we have more wars. Nations against nations. The word "nation" is "**ethnos**" or ethnic groups. It is not a political division. Wars between people groups and rumors of wars will increase. Then, there are famines. Famine is not a thing of the past--there is famine in Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Somalia. It has been prophesied that there will be plagues. With the advancement of science, pandemic and epidemics should have been a thing of the past, but they are nothing new and are still around. Lastly, the Bible tells us in the end times there will be earthquakes (**v.7**). God is shaking the world through these events. God is telling us to be ready.

2. PREPARE (Matthew 24:9-12)

God is also telling us to prepare us. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Do not be under the illusion that the world will fall in love with believers. Jesus tells His disciples that "**you will be hated by all nations because of My name**" (**Matthew 24:9**). Today, you will see Christians attacked all over the world. You will also see Christians betraying other Christians (**vv.10-11**). There will be many false prophets. In the time of Moses, people ask Moses how will they discern a prophet if he's true or counterfeit (**Deuteronomy 18:20-22**). You must know the Word of God because the Word of God and the word of a real prophet will never contradict. God wants us to be discerning and careful. This is one warning that we must take heed: lawlessness is increasing leading to cold hearts (**v.12**). The danger of a cold heart is more serious than pandemics. The moment you lose your love for God, everything you will be doing is legalism. It will just be

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a routine or habit; it is no longer out of love. God warns us that in the end times, people's hearts will grow cold. Let us always heed the warning of Jesus. Our love for God and people must be maintained.

Jesus warns us of the reality of hardship and persecutions. Sadly, in the 21st century, it is not even possible to practice our faith safely in many parts of the world.

3. PERSEVERE (Matthew 24:13-51; 25:1-30)

To persevere is to endure to the end (**Matthew 24:13**). If you are a follower of Jesus, you will continue believing. To continue believing means you will endure and persevere. You will keep on doing what is right. Persevere comes from the word "hupomeno" meaning "to remain under a burden". You are bearing the burden with the strength of the Lord and with a positive attitude. God wants us to learn to persevere for the rest of our life.

A clear indication that the end is near is when the gospel is preached to the whole world (**v.14**). We must not only keep believing, but we must also keep on sharing the gospel! We must keep on doing what God has commanded us to do. God's desire is for the whole world to know Him and repent. God has done His part. He wants us to do our part. Let's get involved and share the gospel through various methods available today.

In **vv.21-25**, Jesus talks of a great tribulation that has not occurred in the past. The false Christ and false prophet will arise and will show signs and wonders and mislead even some of the elect. The Anti-Christ will claim to be the "Savior", or Messiah of the world.

Such a day as described in **vv.29-31** is unimaginable! Many will mourn because they have rejected Jesus. The word elect is "ekletos" referring to God's chosen people (**1 Peter 2:9**). It is possible that believers will be misled and go through tribulation (**v.22**) but in **v.31** it talks about the gathering of His elect. When the Bible is very clear on something, you can teach it dogmatically. But when it comes to the exact day of the rapture and second coming don't be dogmatic about the timing. What we are sure of is that Jesus is coming again.

Jesus gave 7 illustrations in **Matthew 24** and **25** on the signs of His coming again:

1. **Fig tree** **24:32-35**
2. **Noah** **24:36-39**
3. **2 Workers** **24:40-42**
4. **Thief** **24:43-44**
5. **Servants** **24:45-51**
6. **10 Virgins** **25:1-13**
7. **Talents** **25:14- 30**

These show that is a certainty that the Lord is coming again (**v.35**) and we must be ready. All of the prophecies will happen. His Word is dependable, it will come true and it will last. If you know that Jesus is coming you will be protected from laziness, you will prepare, and you will persevere and to hear God say "Well done!"

Believing Christ is coming again definitely matters! It affects our lives, and our future It will impact our eternity. We must be ready. To be ready means to take action. Take Jesus seriously. He is the coming King and Judge; we will all give an account of our lives. To those who are faithful, it will be a time for great joy and celebration. That will be the most important day of our lives!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What must I do differently to be ready for the coming of Jesus?

2. Setting It Right

How can you keep fervent in your love for the Lord?

3. Living It Out

How can you be protected from false teachings and false prophets?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that people will respond in humility and repentance to the signs of the end times. Show kindness to someone who is not of the same faith we have in Christ. Share the gospel through all available platforms you have today.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines,
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends



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Matthew 24:35