

Gospel of Matthew “An Unknown Certainty”
Matthew 24:29-50
April 14, 2024

How do we live in the light of Jesus’ certain coming?

Matthew 24:29-31

29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

“Immediately after the tribulation.”

Isaiah 13:10

For the stars of the heavens and their constellations
will not give their light;
the sun will be dark at its rising,
and the moon will not shed its light.

Revelation 6:12-13

12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, **13** and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.

Though scattered you will be gathered.

Matthew 24:32-35

32 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Jesus speaks to the question of “when.”

Matthew 24:36-44

36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of

the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Flood.
Field.
A thief.

Matthew 24:45-51

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

When we don't think about future judgment, justice and Jesus return, our lives begin to disintegrate.

Your life is one of stewardship.

Live like Jesus' return could happen at any moment.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- We all get surprised by things. What is a recent circumstance that caught you off guard?
- Much of what Jesus says in Matthew 24 is that believers will endure many difficulties. Would you rather someone tell you it is going to be hard up front or find out later on your own? What do you think Jesus is trying to do by what he shares with the disciples?
- How has Matthew 24 challenged you to think more about Christ's return? What are some of the results of that thinking?
- If the encouragement is to be alert, awake and ready for Christ's return then what does that practically look like? Are you discouraged that it seems to have been a long time since Jesus said these words?
- Describe the difference between the faithful and wicked servant in Matthew 24:45-51. What makes the faithful servant faithful?
- What would you do today if you knew that Jesus was coming back tomorrow?
- How can your Grow Group be an encouragement to you in the light of this passage?