

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Will Come Again

Matthew 24-25

Opening

Gathering: What would you do if you knew that the world would end at midnight tonight?

Today's Focus: We are to be prepared for Jesus to return and to take us to the place He has prepared for us.

Key Verses: *I will come back and take you to be with Me.* John 14:3

Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. Matthew 25:34

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Jesus Prepares to Leave (*Luke 24:44-51; Acts 1:1-8*)

What did Jesus do after claiming victory over death through His resurrection?

Acts 1:3

What reason besides proving He was alive did Jesus have for appearing to His disciples?

Luke 24:44-47

Why was it important for the apostles to understand this?

Luke 24:48

What does Jesus expect of His witnesses?

Matthew 28:19-20

Isn't this too large of a job to expect eleven simple men to get started?

Acts 1:8

When would this begin to happen?

Acts 1:4-5

Jesus Leaves (*Acts 1:9-11*)

What did Jesus do after commissioning His apostles and promising the Spirit's power?

Acts 1:9

How did God keep the apostles from feeling forsaken and abandoned?

Acts 1:10-11

Was this news to the apostles?

John 14:2-3

Would this be news to people other than the apostles?

Matthew 26:63-64

Did the early church understand that Jesus would return?

Colossians 3:4 (1 Cor 1:7; 4:5; Phil 3:20; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Thess 5:23; 1 Tim 6:14; 1 John 2:28)

The Timing (*Matthew 24:36-41*)

When did Jesus say He would bring this new kingdom to His new people (Israel)?

Acts 1:6-7

Why didn't Jesus tell them so they knew how much time they had to tell the world?

Matthew 24:36

Doesn't God warn the world before a major event so people can prepare themselves?

Matthew 24:37-41

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Be Prepared (*Matthew 24:42-25:30*)

What does this lack of knowing when mean for our lives?
Matthew 24:42-44

What example did Jesus give to show how we should live while waiting?
Matthew 24:45-51

What example did Jesus give to show that we must be spiritually ready at all times?
Matthew 25:1-13

What example did Jesus give to show that we are to do His work while waiting, not wait idly?
Matthew 25:14-30

Signs of the End (*Matthew 24:3-22, 32-33*)

Will there be any indication that the time for Jesus to return is near?
Matthew 24:32-33

What will happen before Jesus returns?
2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-10 (1-12)

Will Christians be able to withstand the temptations of this deceiver?
1 Timothy 4:1

When we see wars and people claim to be the Christ, does this mean the end is here?
Matthew 24:3-8

What is significant about where Jesus said this?
Zechariah 14:3-4

There He Is! (*Matthew 24:23-30*)

What if we hear someone claiming they know when the end will be or that Jesus has returned?
Matthew 24:23-26

How much notice will we have before He arrives?
Matthew 24:27

How will we find out if He shows up in some other place in the world?
Matthew 24:30
Revelation 1:7

During This Generation (*Matthew 24:34-35*)

How long did the early Christians believe it would be before Jesus returned?
Matthew 24:34

Was Jesus talking about the lifetime of the individuals living at the time?
Psalm 78:8

What generation was Jesus speaking about?
Psalm 24:6

See Psalm 112:2; Deut 32:5,20; Jer 7:29; Luke 11:29-32; Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15; Heb 3:10...

How did Peter point out that people will be confused by this concept of *generation*?

2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-10

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What About Those Who Die? (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)

What problem did early Christians have as a result of expecting Jesus' return during their lives?

1 Thessalonians 4:13

How did Paul answer their concern and confusion?

1 Thessalonians 4:14-16

What will happen to the faithful who are still alive?

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

Why is He Coming Back? (*Matthew 25:31-33*)

Jesus came the first time to take away our sins. Why will He come a second time?

Hebrews 9:27-28

How will He do this?

Matthew 25:31-33 (Ezekiel 34:17-24)

Shepherds grazed sheep and goats together and separated them at shearing time

Wouldn't it have been easier not to let the sheep and goats get all mixed up in the first place?

Matthew 13:24-30 (36-43)

Who is included in this judgment?

John 5:28-29 (Daniel 12:1-2)

Who will help Jesus with this massive task?

Jude 14-15 (Matthew 16:27; Daniel 7:10)

Destiny of the Sheep (*Matthew 25:34*)

What will the Good Shepherd do with the sheep that belong to Him?

Matthew 25:34

What is the significance of the word *inheritance*?

Ephesians 2:8-9

What will happen to these sheep?

1 John 3:2

How does Paul describe this?

Philippians 3:20-21

What will this body be like?

1 Corinthians 15:35-44

Proof of Faithfulness (*Matthew 25:35-40*)

What proof will Jesus give of the faithfulness of His sheep?

Matthew 25:35-36

How do the Lord's sheep show that this was done out of response to God's grace?

Matthew 25:37-39

How does Jesus explain that He was all around them during their earthly lives?

Matthew 25:40

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Works or Faith? (*James 2:14-26*)

Does this mean that people will be saved based on their good deeds to others?

Romans 3:20-24

Then what do the good deeds have to do with being saved?

James 2:14, 18, 26

The Good Ship *Salvation*:

Christians ride in a sailboat named *Salvation*. The wind of God fills the sail of faith and propels the boat. As the sailboat moves, ripples of good deeds are left behind in the water.

- What causes the boat to move, the wind or the ripples?
- What causes the ripples, or the good deeds, to be produced?
- If you look behind a sailboat and see no ripples, what can you conclude?

Destiny of the Goats (*Matthew 25:41*)

What will the Good Shepherd do with the goats that belong to His enemy?

Matthew 25:41

Who all will be sent to this eternal fire?

Revelation 20:10, 13-15

Proof of Faithlessness (*Matthew 25:42-46*)

What proof will Jesus give of the faithlessness of the goats?

Matthew 25:42-43

What excuse do the goats give to try to save themselves?

Matthew 25:44

How does Jesus explain that He was all around them during their earthly lives?

Matthew 25:45

What will happen after the sheep and goats are separated and judged?

Matthew 25:46

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How prepared would I be if Jesus returned today?
(*Matthew 24:36-25:30; Luke 12:35-48; 17:20-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*)
2. Will Jesus clearly recognize me as a sheep or a goat?
(*Ezekiel 34:17-24; Malachi 3:17-18; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2:5-11; Galatians 6:7-10; 1 John 5:10-13; Revelation 3:15-16*)
3. Have I done enough to be counted as a sheep?
(*Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:20-24; 4:1-5; 9:30-33; 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-10*)
4. What motivates me to do good deeds to others?
(*Leviticus 19:15; Matthew 6:1-18; 10:40-42; 23:5-7; Luke 14:7-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; James 2*)
5. How have I shown the love of God to another recently?
(*Job 31:32; Isaiah 58:7; Ezekiel 18:7; Matthew 5:43-48; 26:35-40; Luke 6:27-36; Hebrews 13:1-3; James 1:27; 1 John 4:7-12, 19-21*)