

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: Building Your Life on Jesus' Return

Sermon Series: Building Your Life on Jesus (Part 8); Scripture: Matthew 24:36-25:13

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever waited so long for someone, you began to wonder if that person would ever show up? Maybe you've done that as a teenager waiting for your parents to return home from out of town. Maybe you've experienced that waiting for an employer to finally come back from a long sabbatical or vacation. Maybe you can relate to this when your friend who loaned you that item finally asks for it back. When that day comes, sometimes we realize that we didn't keep the house clean for our parents, finish that work project on time, or taken care of that borrowed item.

What if that person is God? The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ not only rose from the dead, but has promised to return. And when he does, will we be ready? In this session, we'll consider the biblical promise of Jesus' return, and consider to build our lives upon that.

OPENING QUESTION

1. Have you ever taken so long to go somewhere that people thought you weren't going to show up? Share any such experience you can think of.

INTO THE BIBLE (Read Matthew 24:36-25:13)

2. Have you heard of attempts to predict the exact return of Jesus? What would this passage view such attempts to guess Jesus' return?
3. What can we know for sure about when Jesus' return will be from this passage?
4. In verses 42-44, how should Christ-followers be living if we don't know when Jesus will return? How much do most Christ-followers seem to follow this?

GOING DEEPER

In verses 45-51, we see that a servant's true attitude toward the master comes out the longer the master's delay. Maybe you can relate to this principle. What if you knew that Jesus wouldn't come back for another 1000 years? Would that change how you lived? Should it? Now consider these questions.

5. Would be easier to be ready for Jesus' return if He came back sooner or later? Why would you think so?
6. What will happen to a wicked servant or the wise, faithful servant when the master returns?
7. In verses 25:1-13, what is the main difference between the wise and foolish virgins?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

If Jesus returned today, how ready are you? The more a person really understands and believes that Jesus will return, the more inspired and empowered one becomes to live for Jesus. If you're a Christian, Jesus wants you to think about this each and every day: Jesus could return at any time. Are you ready?

If you're not a Christian, or not sure, then please understand that Jesus promised he would return. And if Jesus kept his promise to rise from the grave, it makes sense to believe he will come back like he promised. In light of that, consider how you'd feel if he came back soon, even right after reading this!

CHANGING YOUR MIND

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father... Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come... So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (Matthew 24:36, 42, 44, NIV)

