



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Faithful Servants!!

Matthew 24:37-51

Message #68 of 80 – S1108

Sermon given on June 30, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Faithful Servants!!

Matthew 24:37-51

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 24**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Faithful Servants!!**
- Chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew are focused on the future.
- We use terms like 'end times' or 'last days' to refer to the things the Bible says on this topic.
- Chapter 24 of Matthew is just a couple of days before Jesus is betrayed and crucified.
- He takes some time to prepare His disciples for what is coming.
- He told them the temple they were so proud of would be destroyed.
- Then He promised He would come back again.
- And then He made a statement that leads into our text for this morning.
- **Matthew 24:36**
- Jesus is referring to His Second Coming.
- God has already determined a day and hour when Christ will return.
- Jesus begins by saying that His return will come without warning.
- No one on earth knows when it will happen.
- Stay away from anyone who tells you they know when Jesus is coming back.
- Jesus then uses an account out of Genesis 6 to illustrate His point.
- **Matthew 24:37**
- We live in this world, but we are not of this world.
- Jesus said, speaking of His disciples (**John 17:16**).
They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
- When we put our faith in Christ, we are spiritually transported to heaven. Paul talks about that in (Ephesians 2:4-7).

- Physically, we live in this world, but spiritually, we are already in heaven with Jesus.
- Paul talked about the tension that brings (**Philippians 1:23-24**).
For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is far better*. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is more needful for you*.
- Paul understood that he was still on the earth because His Savior Jesus had something He wanted Paul to do.
- God was not finished with Paul yet.
- ‘days of Noah’ – Jesus’ point is that life was going along as normal.
- As Noah built a huge boat and preached a message of righteousness, everyone went on living their lives, disregarding his message and the coming judgment.
- It will be the same way when Jesus comes back again.
- Turn to **Genesis 6**.
- Jesus has been building His church for two thousand years and the church has been doing what it can to preach and live a message of righteousness and yet the world just keeps going on toward destruction.
- This phrase also describes the level of wickedness that will be in the world at the time of Christ’s return.
- **Genesis 6:5-7**
- Some people accuse the church of not doing enough to make the world better than it is, like that might be what God is waiting for to send Jesus back.
- Jesus says the world is going to get worse, like it was before God flooded the whole world and saved only Noah and his family.
- Turn back to **Matthew 24**
- That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try to make the world better, just don’t despair because it doesn’t seem like it is.
- The Second Coming of Christ is going to be a surprise just like the flood was to those of Noah’s time.
- **Matthew 24:38-39**
- They ignored the warnings of the giant boat and the righteous man building it.

- They were going through life as though they had no care in the world.
- **Matthew 24:40-41**
- We must interpret all Scripture within its obvious context.
- Verses 40 and 41 must be viewed in the context of verses 36 to 39.
- This is referring to the Second Coming. (Put up **End Times Timeline**)
- Jesus will come back to the earth at the end of the seven-year Tribulation period.
- Before the Tribulation begins, Jesus will come in the clouds and catch all true believers to be with Him.
- We refer to this event as the Rapture of the church – you can read about that in (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- After the Rapture and while the Tribulation is going on many will come to believe in Jesus.
- We refer to them as Tribulation saints.
- In the Rapture Jesus takes the believers out of the world to be with Him and leaves the unbelievers to face the Tribulation.
- At the Second Coming Jesus will take away all the unbelievers to eternal judgment and leave the Tribulation saints to repopulate the earth in the 1,000-year reign of Christ, also known as the Millennium.
- The ones taken in verses 40 and 41 are unbelievers and ones left are believers.
- Armed with that knowledge Jesus then tells His followers how they should respond.
- **Matthew 24:42-43**
- Because we don't know when Jesus will return and there will be no signs warning us of His return, we must live as if He might return at any moment.
- We are not to be watchful out of a sense of fear.
- As Christ-followers we have nothing to fear, either in this life or when Christ comes to get us.
- Our motivation for watchfulness is born out our love for Jesus, and a desire to be with Him.
- **Matthew 24:44**
- This is an exhortation to believers living in the Tribulation.

- There will be lots of signs of Christ's Second Coming but the exact 'hour' may not be obvious.
- They need to keep themselves ready.
- This same exhortation applies to us today.
- We don't know when Jesus is going to come in the clouds to take us to be with Him.
- We must also keep ourselves ready and alert.
- Then the timeframe shifts from the future to the present.
- **Matthew 24:45-47**
- Jesus knows He will be leaving soon.
- He is placing the kingdom into the hands of the disciples and calling them to be faithful.
- Every generation that follows is given the same mandate, be faithful and wise.
- In the same way the master in Jesus' parable entrusted all his things to his servants, Jesus has entrusted all His things to His servants.
- As believers, that would be us.
- This reminds us of Jesus' parable about the 'minas' (**Luke 19:13**).
So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'
- The servants were given authority and resources to meet the needs of others.
- Regardless of how long before Jesus comes back, we should stay busy doing those things that are good (**Galatians 6:9**).
And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
- No one should serve God because of what they might get out of it, but it is nice to know that God does reward His faithful servants.
- **Matthew 24:47**
- When we stand before God, we will not be rewarded for everything we have done for the Lord.
- We will be rewarded for being faithful to the Lord, doing those things He gave us to do.
- There is no way of knowing exactly what that reward will be, but I trust my good God to make it awesome!

- There have always been some who claim to be a part of the family of God and are not.
 - Jesus addresses them next.
 - **Matthew 24:48-51**
 - This reminds us of the parable of the wheat and the tares.
 - The tares are so-called ‘believers’ who lack saving faith.
 - They look very much like the other believers in the church but are not and their destiny is to be burned up.
 - ‘weeping and gnashing of teeth’ – Appears 5 times in the Bible.
 - 4 times in Matthew and once in Luke.
 - All five times Jesus is speaking about the eternal judgment of unbelievers.
 - It has been almost two-thousand years since Jesus uttered these words.
 - Many people have been born, believed in Jesus Christ, looked for His soon coming, grown old, and then died.
 - Jesus is trying to encourage us not to lose sight of our hope.
 - Our hope is not in the Second Coming, it is not even in the Rapture.
 - Our hope is in heaven (**Hebrews 6:19-20**).
- This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus...**
- It would be awesome if the Rapture came soon, but it shouldn’t change how we live our lives.
 - Be faithful to what God called you to do with your life.
 - Grow in your faith every day.
 - Seek to honor God with every breath you take.
 - Choose to be a blessing to anyone you encounter.
 - Look for an opportunity to serve God.
 - Ask God to open your mouth to tell others about His love for them and His desire to spend the rest of eternity with them.
 - Jesus might come back very soon, or maybe He won’t be back in our lifetimes. Be watchful – keep looking for Him.
 - Be alert to the signs of the times. And be faithful.
 - Jesus is coming – maybe soon. Live like you believe that!
 - **Pray!** Worship Team plays the last song!