

Title ideas:
The King's Surprise!
The King's Faithful Servants!

Matthew 24:37-51 - The King's Faithful Servants!

Scriptures:

John 17:16 - They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Ephesians 2:4-7 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:19-24 - For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 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.

Genesis 6:5-7 - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

37 But as the days of Noah [Ⓢ] *were*, so also will

[Ⓢ] the coming of the Son of [Ⓢ] Man be.

G3952 -
παρουσία
(parousia) –
presence, advent.

Notes:

Start by reading verse 36. 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.

We live in this world, but we are not of this world. Jesus said, speaking of His disciples (John 17:16). When we put our faith in Christ, we are spiritually transported to heaven (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 1:19-24). 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.

The more our faith grows, the more aware we become of the wickedness of this world. And as we grow in faith, the wickedness in the world becomes more offensive.

'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. 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 they 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. 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.

Scriptures:

2 Timothy 3:1-5 - But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

38 For as in the ⁵days before the flood, they

were eating and drinking, marrying and giving

in marriage, until the ⁵day that Noah entered

the ark,

39 and did not know until the flood came and

took them all away, so also will the coming of ^{2ND}

the Son of Man ⁺be.

Notes:

They ignored the warnings of the giant boat and the righteous man building it. Paul gives us a picture of what they will be like (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

They were going through life as though they had no care in the world. How surprised do you imagine they were when the rains started, and the flood came.

Scriptures:

2 Peter 2:4-5 - For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly...

Notes:

Noah's life was a sermon of righteousness to the rest of the world (2 Peter 2:4-5).

Scriptures:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

40 Then two *men* will be in the field: one

will be taken and the other left.

G3880 -

G863 – leave behind.

Notes:

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. (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 (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 leave 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.

Scriptures:

41 Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one

Notes:

will be taken and the other left.

Scriptures:

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know

G1127 – stay
awake, be alert,
be vigilant.

what hour [⌚] your Lord [⌚] is coming.

Notes:

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.

Scriptures:

43 But know this, that if the master of the

house had known what hour the thief would

come, he would have watched and not

allowed his house to be broken into.

Notes:

Scriptures:

44 Therefore you also be ready, for the

G2092 -

Notes:

This is an exhortation to believers living in the Tribulation. There will be lots 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.

Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not

expect.

Scriptures:

Luke 19:13 - So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant,

G4103 - trustworthy, pertaining to being reliable.

G5429 - "wise (judicious) adjs. — marked by the exer of good judgment c common sense in practical matters."

G1401 - δοῦλος (doulos)

Notes:

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.

whom his master made ruler over his

This reminds us of Jesus' parable about the 'minas' (Luke 19:13). The servants were given authority and resources to meet the needs of others.

household, to give them food in due season?

Scriptures:

Galatians 6:7-10 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

46 Blessed ^S ^M ^S ^M ^S ^M ^S ^M that servant whom his master,

when he ^M comes, will find so doing.

Notes:

'so doing' = Giving them food in due season (v45).

Regardless of how long before Jesus comes back, we should stay busy doing those things that are good (Galatians 6:7-10).

Scriptures:

47 Assuredly, I ⁺ say to you that he will make ⁽¹²⁾ ^M

him ^S ruler ^M over all his ^M goods.

Notes:

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!

Scriptures:

48 But if that ~~xxx~~ ^E evil servant says in his heart, 'My ^E ^P ^E

^M master is delaying his [Ⓢ] coming,'

Notes:

There have always been some who claim to be a part of the family of God and are not.

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.

"This warning from Christ was spoken to people who professed much but possessed nothing." (Powell, 1986) page 443

Scriptures:

49 and begins to beat ^Ehis fellow servants, and

Notes:

to eat and drink with the drunkards,

Scriptures:

50 the ^Mmaster of that ^Eservant will come on a

Notes:

^Qday when ^Ehe is not looking for ^Ehim and at an

G4328 - expect,
look forward to
the future.

^Qhour that ^Ehe is not aware of,

G1097 - know,
recognize.

Scriptures:
Hebrews 4:19-20 - 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, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

51 and will cut ^Ehim in two and appoint ^Ehim ^Fhis

G5087 -

portion with the ^{xxx}hypocrites. There shall be

G3313 – share.

weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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Notes:
'weeping and gnashing of teeth' – Appears 5 times in the Bible. 4 times in Mtthew 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 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 4:19-20](#)). 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 life 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!