



## **MATTHEW 24:36-51**

### **GETTING STARTED...**

What is the hardest thing you had to wait for? Most of the time when we are waiting for things nowadays, we have a pretty good idea of when they will arrive. When you order something online you can almost always track your package on its way to your house. However, Jesus tells us that we are not going to know when he returns. We don't get to track Jesus on his way back as if he was under our control, rather we are called to submit to his timing. But that also means that we are called to be ready for whenever Jesus does return. As Jesus is teaching his disciples about his return he warns them that they should be ready all the time. That is still the case for us today as we eagerly await the return of Christ!

### **READ THE TEXT: MATTHEW 24:36-51**

<sup>36</sup> "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> 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, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> 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. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

<sup>45</sup> "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?

<sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>47</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' <sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, <sup>50</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know <sup>51</sup> and will cut him in

pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the connection that Jesus is making between Noah and his own return? How does this help us understand vs 40-41?
2. What is the point of the parable that Jesus gives in vs 45-51? What does Jesus emphasize for us?

## REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

## APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

*Agassiz*            What kind of assurance do you experience by knowing that Jesus coming is certain and He will find you wherever you are? Since Jesus could come at any time, are you being intentional in sharing the news of the Gospel with those close to you? if not, what practical steps can you take? Jesus has gifted you in amazing ways, how are you using those gifts for the Kingdom of God? If you are not actively using them, how can you start today?

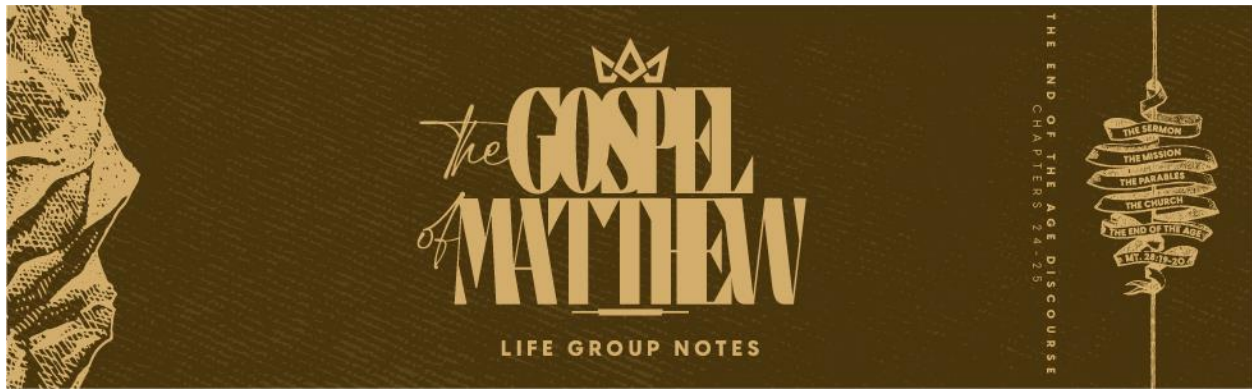
*Chilliwack*        How important has end times theology been in your life? How has it shaped you? What are the dangers of misunderstanding or ignoring Jesus words about his return? What does it look like for you to "stay awake" and living a faithful love of faith, hope and love in the present?

*Harrison/Lake Errock*    What practical steps can we take to support each other in remaining faithful and prepared for Christ's return? What effect does the tension between the certainty of Christ's return and the unknown timing of it have on our day to day lives? What effect should it have?

*Promontory*        How much does the reality of Christ's imminent return affect me? In what specific ways does it impact my life and thinking?

## PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?  
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*