

“Seen by Some; Seen by All”
Looking for Jesus Sermon Series #4
Matthew 24:23-28
Cross Community Church, Savannah, Ga.
August 2, 2026

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| • Looking for Jesus #1 “The Great Why” | Matt. 24:1-6/Daniel 9:20-27 | July 12, 2026 |
| • Looking for Jesus #2 “Now and Not Yet” | Matt. 24:1-14 | July 19, 2026 |
| • Looking for Jesus #3 “Peace Has an Enemy” | Matt. 24:15-22 | July 26, 2026 |
| • Looking for Jesus #4 “Seen by Some; Seen by All” | Matt. 24:23-28 | August 2, 2026 |

Matthew 24:23 Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, **so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.** ²⁵**See, I have told you beforehand.** ²⁶So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ **do not believe it.** ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Discussion Questions

Jesus warns his followers not to be led astray by false Christs and false prophets who perform signs and wonders -- in what ways do you see counterfeit spiritual voices competing for your trust today, and how does a deep knowledge of Scripture help you discern the real from the false?

The sermon emphasizes that when Jesus returns, his coming will be like lightning flashing from east to west, impossible to miss -- how does the certainty of his unmistakable return shape the way you live and make decisions right now?

Jesus tells his disciples 'See, I have told you beforehand' as an act of protection and love -- in what areas of your life do you find it difficult to trust that God has already given you what you need to know, and what would it look like to rest in that truth?

The pastor described waiting on God during a six-year season of trying to sell his house, only to later see God's perfect timing -- can you identify a season in your own life where waiting on God produced something you could not have orchestrated yourself?

The sermon draws a distinction between things seen by some and things that will be seen by all -- how does the promise that every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb change the way you respond to injustice or suffering that seems to go unaddressed in the world?

The pastor stated that the enemy preys on the most vulnerable, including new believers who are susceptible to being led astray -- what responsibility does that place on more mature believers within a church community to protect, mentor, and walk alongside those who are newer in their faith?

The sermon connects the image of vultures gathering over a corpse to the visible, undeniable nature of Christ's return -- how does meditating on the public and glorious nature of that day affect your sense of urgency about sharing the gospel with those around you?

The pastor quoted Willie Rice saying 'faithfulness precedes fruitfulness' and connected it to Jesus' teaching that apart from him we can do nothing -- where in your life might you be striving to produce fruit on your own rather than abiding in Christ and trusting him to work through you?

Jesus instructs his followers to look up rather than out to the fields or inner rooms when waiting for his return -- in what practical ways might you need to reorient your gaze away from earthly distractions and toward the hope of Christ's coming?

The sermon describes God as one who gives people 'one more chance,' even sending angels during the tribulation to proclaim the gospel to every nation -- how does God's patient, long-suffering love toward humanity challenge or deepen the way you extend grace and patience to the people in your own life?

Small Group Guide

"Seen by Some, Seen by All" | Matthew 24:23-28

OVERVIEW

In this sermon, Pastor Kevin walked through Matthew 24:23-28, exploring Jesus' warnings to his followers about false Christs, the nature of his return, and the call to faithful endurance. The central theme is this: **Jesus protects and preserves the faith of his children.** Just as a loving parent warns a child about real dangers, Jesus prepares his followers for what is to come so that they will not be led astray or alarmed.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus gives his followers an imperative to **watch** -- false Christs and false prophets will perform convincing signs and wonders, and believers must be discerning.
 - Jesus calls his followers to **wait** -- getting ahead of God leads to anxiety and trouble; waiting on him renews our strength.
 - When Jesus returns, it will be **impossible to miss** -- his coming will be sudden, public, universal, and glorious, like lightning from east to west.
 - Jesus implores his followers to **endure** -- faithfulness precedes fruitfulness, and enduring to the end proves the genuineness of one's faith.
 - The best defense against counterfeits is knowing the original -- studying the Word of God is how we know Jesus deeply enough to recognize what is false.
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GETTING STARTED

Use one of these questions to open your group time and help everyone engage:

1. Have you ever discovered something about yourself that everyone else seemed to already know? How did that feel? Pastor Kevin shared the story of finding out he was colorblind after years of arguing with his wife about navy and black. What is a moment when you realized you had been missing something obvious?
 2. Have you ever been in a situation where you spotted something others completely missed, or vice versa? What was it like to realize the gap in what different people saw?
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

On Watching

1. Jesus warns in Matthew 24:24 that false Christs and false prophets will perform great signs and wonders, powerful enough to potentially mislead even the elect. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes this warning so strongly? What does it tell us about the nature of spiritual deception?
2. Pastor Kevin said, "The best way to know a counterfeit when it shows up is to know the original." How does regular engagement with Scripture help you recognize false teaching? Can you think of a time when knowing God's Word helped you identify something that was off?
3. Jesus gives three specific commands in this passage: "do not believe it," "do not go out," and again "do not believe it." Why do you think he repeats the warning? What does repetition in Scripture often signal about importance?

On Waiting

4. Pastor Kevin described the years-long process of selling his house before moving to North Georgia, and how God's timing turned out to be purposeful in ways he could not see at the time. Can you share a time when waiting on God was difficult but ultimately proved to be right? What did that season teach you?
5. Isaiah 40:31 describes those who wait on the Lord having their strength renewed. What is the difference between passively waiting and actively waiting on God? What does waiting on God look like in practical, daily terms?
6. Pastor Kevin said, "God doesn't need your help. He's not even asking you for your help. He's asking you for surrender." How does the desire to help God along reveal something about our trust in him? Where in your life are you tempted to run ahead of him?

On the Return of Christ

7. Jesus describes his return as being like lightning that shines from east to west -- sudden, unmistakable, and universal. How does this description challenge any ideas about a quiet or hidden second coming? Why is it significant that his return will be seen by all and not just by some?

8. Pastor Kevin noted that Jesus' return will have special meaning for Israel, pointing to Zechariah 12 and the moment when Israel recognizes Jesus as their Messiah. How does understanding the broader story of Scripture -- including God's faithfulness to Israel -- strengthen your confidence in his promises to you personally?
9. The sermon referenced the image from the end of "The Two Towers" when Gandalf arrives at the Battle of Helm's Deep at the moment of greatest defeat. How does that image help you think about the return of Christ? Have you ever experienced a moment in your own life when God showed up at what felt like the last possible moment?

On Enduring

10. Pastor Kevin quoted Willie Rice: "Faithfulness precedes fruitfulness." How does this reframe the pressure many believers feel to produce results in their spiritual lives, their families, or their ministries? What would it look like to shift your focus from fruitfulness to faithfulness?
11. Matthew 24:13 says that the one who endures to the end will be saved. This is not a statement that salvation is earned by enduring, but that endurance is evidence of genuine faith. How do you personally stay grounded and endure during spiritually difficult seasons? What practices, relationships, or truths anchor you?
12. Pastor Kevin said that in the middle of the greatest chaos described in Matthew 24, "the most important thing in life is one's relationship with Jesus." Is that actually reflected in how you order your days? What competes most with keeping Jesus at the center?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to discuss as a group or take home as a personal challenge this week:

Examine what you are listening to. Take stock of the voices you regularly receive teaching from -- podcasts, social media, books, and speakers. Ask yourself whether those voices consistently point you to Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture, or whether they add to, subtract from, or distort the gospel. Bring what you find back to your group next week.

Practice waiting. Identify one situation in your life where you have been tempted to get ahead of God or force an outcome. Write it down and commit to bringing it before the Lord in prayer this week, releasing control and asking for the strength that comes from waiting on him.

Look up. Pastor Kevin said that those who were being warned in Matthew 24 were being told to look out or look around, when Jesus said to look up. This week, when anxiety or distraction pulls your attention downward or inward, practice the discipline of reorienting your focus upward -- toward who Jesus is, what he has promised, and the hope of his return.

Memorize one anchor verse. Consider committing one of the following to memory this week as a guard against being led astray or alarmed:

- Matthew 24:35 -- Jesus' words will never pass away, even as the world changes
- Isaiah 40:31 -- on waiting and renewed strength
- Matthew 6:33 -- on seeking first the kingdom of God

Invest in a new believer. Pastor Kevin noted that new believers are more susceptible to being led astray. Is there someone in your life who is new to faith in Christ? Consider reaching out this week to encourage them, pray with them, or invite them into your community.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your group time by praying together. You may use this as a guide:

Lord, thank you for loving us enough to warn us. Thank you that you do not leave us without guidance, without hope, or without protection. We confess that we are often tempted to look in the wrong direction -- at the chaos around us, at the voices competing for our attention, or at the circumstances that feel out of control. Remind us to look up. Help us to know your Word well enough to recognize what is false. Teach us to wait on you rather than run ahead of you. And give us the grace to endure faithfully, trusting that you will produce the fruit in your time and in your way. We believe you are coming back. We believe it will be impossible to miss. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

5 Day Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on "Seen by Some, Seen by All" — Matthew 24:23-28

Day 1: Do Not Be Led Astray Reading: Matthew 24:23-26 Devotional: Jesus warns his followers with urgency: do not believe every voice that claims to speak for him. The world will always produce counterfeits, and they will be convincing. The best defense against deception is not suspicion but intimacy — knowing the real thing so thoroughly that the imitation is immediately obvious. Study the word of God not as an obligation but as a safeguard. The shepherd's voice is distinct. His sheep know it. Ask yourself today: am I spending enough time with Jesus that I would recognize his voice above all others competing for my attention and allegiance?

Day 2: The Faithfulness of Waiting Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31 Devotional: Isaiah describes a God who does not grow weary, whose understanding cannot be measured, and whose strength is given freely to those who wait on him. Waiting is not passive resignation. It is active trust — the decision to stop straining ahead of God and instead align yourself with his timing. The sermon reminded us that what felt like a long delay in one season was actually God at work preparing something better. Waiting on the Lord does not drain your strength; it renews it. Whatever promise you are standing on today, resist the urge to rush it. His timing is never wrong.

Day 3: The Return That Cannot Be Missed Reading: Revelation 1:7 Devotional: John writes that when Christ returns, every eye will see him — not some, not most, but every eye. His coming will not be a rumor or a private event tucked away in a field or an inner room. It will be unmistakable, sudden, and universal, like lightning splitting the sky from east to west. This truth is not meant to produce fear but to anchor hope. In a world full of noise and competing claims, there is coming a moment when all confusion ends and every question is answered. Live today with that certainty shaping your priorities, your patience, and your peace.

Day 4: Enduring to the End Reading: Matthew 24:13-14; James 1:2-4 Devotional: Jesus says the one who endures to the end will be saved, and James tells us that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness. Endurance is not gritting your teeth and surviving. It is faithfulness — showing up, abiding, trusting, and refusing to let go of what you know to be true even when circumstances argue against it. The sermon offered a powerful reminder: faithfulness precedes fruitfulness. You are not responsible for the harvest. You are responsible for remaining faithful to the vine. Today, wherever you feel weary or tempted to quit, ask God for the grace to simply endure one more day.

Day 5: Christ Is Mine Forevermore Reading: Romans 8:35-39 Devotional: Paul asks who or what can separate us from the love of Christ and then answers his own question with breathtaking confidence: nothing. Not tribulation, not distress, not danger, not death. Jesus protects and preserves the faith of his children — not because they are strong enough to hold on, but because he is strong enough to hold them. The closing hymn sung in this service declared that Christ is mine forevermore. That is not wishful thinking. It is a settled, unshakeable reality for everyone who has placed their faith in him. Rest today in the certainty that you are held by a love that cannot be undone.