

The End Times According to Jesus

Small Group Guide:

The End Times According to Jesus, Week 2

Key Takeaways:

1. The rapture is when Jesus comes back for His bride (the church).
2. Jesus taught about the rapture, drawing parallels to Jewish wedding traditions.
3. The marriage covenant between Christ and the church is the model for human marriages.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was your understanding of the rapture before this sermon? How has it changed?
2. The pastor explained the Jewish wedding traditions that Jesus referenced. How does this cultural context enhance your understanding of Christ's relationship with the church?
3. Discuss the significance of Jesus' words in John 11:25-26. How does this passage relate to the concept of the

rapture?

4. How does understanding the rapture as Christ coming for His bride impact your view of your relationship with Jesus?
5. The sermon highlighted Ephesians 5:23-32. How does this passage challenge or affirm your understanding of marriage and its connection to Christ and the church?
6. What emotions or thoughts arise when you consider the possibility of being "left behind" if you're not ready for Christ's return?

Practical Application:

1. Reflect on your personal relationship with Christ. Are you living as though you are "betrothed" to Him and eagerly awaiting His return?
2. For married couples: Discuss how you can better reflect Christ's relationship with the church in your marriage.
3. Make a commitment to study more about end times prophecy and share what you learn with others.
4. Create a plan to live with greater urgency and purpose, knowing that Christ could return at any moment.
5. If you haven't accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, consider the prayer shared at the end of the sermon. Discuss any questions or hesitations with the group.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His plan of redemption and the promise of Christ's return. Ask for wisdom to live in light of this truth and for opportunities to share this hope with others.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Resurrection and the Life

Reading: John 11:21-27

Devotional: Jesus' powerful declaration, "I am the resurrection and the life," reminds us of His ultimate authority over death. As we face our own mortality and the loss of loved ones, we can find comfort in knowing that our faith in Christ ensures eternal life. Today, reflect on how this truth impacts your daily life. How does the promise of resurrection shape your perspective on current challenges? Consider ways you can live with the confidence and hope that comes from knowing Jesus as the source of life itself.

Day 2: The Bridegroom's Promise

Reading: John 14:1-3

Devotional: Jesus' words of comfort to His disciples mirror the ancient Jewish wedding traditions. Just as a bridegroom would prepare a place for his bride, Jesus is preparing an eternal home for us. This beautiful metaphor speaks to God's love and commitment to His people. Today, meditate on your relationship with Christ as His bride. How can you prepare your heart to be ready for His return? Consider areas in your life where you need to deepen your trust in His promises and align yourself more closely with His will.

Day 3: The Rapture - A Thief in the Night

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Devotional: The unexpected nature of Christ's return for His church should inspire both vigilance and excitement. Like a bride awaiting her groom, we are called to be ready at any moment. Reflect on your current spiritual state. Are you living each day as if it could be the day of Christ's return? Consider practical ways you can "stay awake and sober" spiritually, encouraging fellow believers and living with purpose and urgency in sharing the gospel.

Day 4: The Marriage Covenant

Reading: Ephesians 5:22-33

Devotional: Paul's comparison of marriage to Christ's relationship with the church offers profound insights into both human relationships and our spiritual union with Christ. As we contemplate Christ's sacrificial love and leadership, consider how this model can transform your relationships. For those who are married, how can you better reflect Christ's love in your marriage? For all believers, how can you deepen your submission to and love for Christ as part of His bride, the church?

Day 5: Preparing for the Wedding Feast

Reading: Revelation 19:6-9

Devotional: The joyous celebration of the marriage supper of the Lamb gives us a glimpse of our eternal future with Christ. This promise of ultimate reunion and celebration should fill us with hope and anticipation. Today, reflect on the "fine linen, bright and clean" that represents the righteous acts of God's people. How are you contributing to the preparation of the bride (the church) for this great day?

Consider specific ways you can live out your faith more boldly, serving others and growing in holiness as we await our Bridegroom's return.