

UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF THE SIGNS OF JESUS' RETURN

Matthew 24-25

The End #4

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Woodland Church

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1. LIVE A GODLY LIFE.

(Matthew 24:4, 13-14, 25, NLT) Jesus told them 'Don't let anyone mislead you... But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come. See, I have warned you about this ahead of time.

2. BE CONFIDENT IN MY CONVICTIONS.

(Matthew 24:6) And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.

3. SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS.

(Matthew 24:14) And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

(Psalm 96:2-4a) Sing to the Lord; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!

4. BE PREPARED.

(Matthew 24:43-44) Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

5. BE FAITHFUL AND SENSIBLE.

(Matthew 24:45-47) A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.

(1 John 3:2-3) Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

6. BE READY.

(Matthew 25:13) So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

7. BE PRODUCTIVE.

(Matthew 25:21) The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

(1 Corinthians 12:7) A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

8. BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT PARTNER.

(Matthew 25:34-40) Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’