

# Study Guide



## Matthew 24:29-41 - The Sudden Return of the Lord June 3, 2018

### Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

### Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

### Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

## Action Step

Read and pray through Psalm 23 this week. Use the words of the psalmist to inform the content of your prayer.

## Calendar

June 11th-16th — Youth Camp  
June 14th- July 19th — Women's Bible Study  
June 24th-28th — Camp Electric  
July — Community Group and Service Team Sign Ups

## Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

## Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Even So Come](#)":

All of creation  
All of the earth  
Make straight a highway  
A path for the Lord  
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner  
Wake up the saint  
Let every nation shout of Your fame  
Jesus is coming soon

Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Every heart longing for our King  
We sing "even so come"  
Lord Jesus, come  
Even so come  
Lord Jesus, come

There will be justice, all will be new  
Your name forever, faithful and true  
Jesus is coming soon

Oh, like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Every heart longing for our King  
We sing "even so come"  
Lord Jesus, come  
Even so come  
Lord Jesus, come

So we wait  
We wait for You  
God, we wait  
You're coming soon

So we wait  
We wait for You  
God, we wait  
You're coming soon

Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be at Church, ready for You  
Every heart longing for our King, we sing  
Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be at Church, we'll be ready for You  
Every heart longing for our King, we sing  
"even so come"  
Lord Jesus, come

Even so come  
Lord Jesus, come  
Even so come  
Lord Jesus, come  
Even so come  
Lord Jesus, come

## Word (45 Minutes)

### Commentary: Read Matthew 24:29-41

We have seen in Matthew 24 that we are to trust in the authority of Christ and persevere in the power of Christ as we experience tribulation, deception, temptation, and persecution. Now, in the remainder of Matthew 24 we see we should long for the coming of Christ. The realities of tribulation, deception, temptation, and persecution create anticipation. The more we live in this world, the more we will long for Christ to come back to this world.

This text leaves us with no doubt that the day of Christ's return will be evident to all people. His coming will not be a secret but "the angels of heaven will let out a trumpet blast, and everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds" (vs. 29-31). He came the first time in humility lying in a manger to provide salvation, however, He will come the second time in glory to execute judgment riding on the clouds. This picture of Christ's second coming in Matthew 24 is of the glory of God revealed in the glorious Son of God, who will come on the clouds in power to execute judgment (Ex. 13:21; 40:34-28; Ps. 104:3; Is. 19:1). When He shows up, Jesus says, the tribes of the earth will "mourn" when they see Him coming. That day will be a day of judgement, and all who are not ready for that day, those who have refused to turn from their sin and to trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior, will come face to face with the Righteous One they have rejected. Matthew 24 should cause us to ask ourselves, "What if this happened today? Will I be ready?" If you answered no, then repent and believe in Christ today. He is your future hope and the only one to be feared is Him. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then we still need to repent of sins that you are holding on to. Ask yourself, "What are you doing today that would cause you to be ashamed before Jesus if He were to come right now?" We must be ready for His coming and that could be at any moment.

Jesus continues in Matthew 24:32-33 and tells a parable of the fig tree. The lesson of this parable is that Christians confidently watch, for they see the leaves on the tree (the signs Jesus has spoken of) indicating that the Lord's return is near. In a very real sense, we keep our eyes on the sky and our hearts prepared, even though we don't know the exact timing of His coming. Yet we know that His timing will confound our wisdom. When the Son returns, we will see that the Father's timing is perfect, so we watch with confidence in the sovereign control of God.

As we wait for the coming of our King, we know for certain that He is coming back and that today we are closer to His return than we were yesterday. And when He comes, His return will exceed our expectations. We've all been hopeful for some thing or some anticipated event, waiting eagerly to experience it, only to be deeply disappointed when it didn't meet our expectations. It will not be like this with the second coming of Christ. We cannot describe the glory of what the scene will be like, as well as all that will unfold in the days to come after. But with confidence we can expect Him to return. In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S. Lewis gives us a picture of what that eternal state will be like. He says:

"As Aslan spoke, he no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."

## Discussion - Looking at the text

1. What were some take aways from the sermon? What convicted you? What stood out to you? Explain.
2. Please remember the questions that the disciples asked Jesus privately at the beginning of this discourse in Matthew 24:3—When will these things (the destruction of the temple) be and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? These verses are part of Jesus' answer to their questions. Which of these two questions do you think Jesus is addressing in verses 29-31? Notice verse 30, "Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Don't these phrases sound like verse 27 which says, "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man?"
3. Look at verses 32-35. Jesus is using the behavior of the fig tree like a parable. When the shoots of the new leaves come out on the fig tree, you know that summer is near. Likewise when you see these things occur like in verses 15-21, you will know that it is near. What is near? Do you think that these verses are referring to the destruction of the temple in AD 70 or to the second coming of Jesus? How does verse 34 help to answer that question?
4. In verse 36 what does Jesus say about the timing of his second coming? Does Jesus, himself know the time of his second coming?
5. What is the message of verses 37-39 concerning the circumstances surrounding Jesus second coming? Will people in general be anticipating his coming before it happens?
6. What is the point of verses 40-41? One will be taken and one will be left. Do these people who are separated at the second coming of Jesus know each other? For what purpose do you think the people in these verses are taken—for judgment? For being united with Jesus? Do we know how to answer these questions from these verses?
7. In verses 32-35 Jesus says that we should observe the signs of his coming—the terrible things that will happen on the earth—and know that the time is near. How then do we explain that so many people will be caught unaware just like in the days before the Flood of Noah (verses 36-39)?

8. What does it look like for followers of Christ to be eagerly watching for Jesus and urgently working for His kingdom purposes?
  
9. How does this text speak to the authority and divinity of Jesus Christ?

## Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

### **Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:**

Hub/purchased	Celebrate recovery
Young life	Samaritan counseling
Heart of hope	Last call ministries
First priority	Golden age ministries
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center	Rescue mission
Community renewal	Luke's lighthouse
Grief counseling	FCA

### **Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:**

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)  
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)  
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)  
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

# Walk

Prayer & Missions

For further information visit  
[norrisferrychurch.org](http://norrisferrychurch.org) or contact Jared  
Clary ([clary@norrisferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norrisferrychurch.org))

# Calendar

June— Serve Shreveport  
July— Community Outreach