

Study Guide



Matthew 24:42-25:46 - Be Watchful

June 10, 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 24 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 "[It is Well](#)":

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Word (45 Minutes)

Commentary: Read Matthew 24:42-25:46

In Matthew 24:1-35, Jesus told his disciples that He would come back, and that His second coming would be visible for all to see. He, the Son of Man, would come on “the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (24:30). On the day He returns, it could be today, tomorrow, or many years from now, the angels will gather Christ’s elect from the ends of the earth (24:31). These are grand and glorious truths to bank our futures on, but what do they mean for our lives now, at this moment? How does the reality of Christ’s return affect the way we should think and feel right now? In Matthew 24:36-25:46 we see answers given to these questions. Jesus tells five parables and stories to help us understand how we should live in light of His coming. Jesus tells us that we should be prepared for His coming because our lives and our eternities are at stake.

In verses 42-44 Jesus describes His coming as being like a thief in the night (1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Rev. 3:3). The point of this parable is clear, if you know a thief is coming to your house, then you stay awake and keep watch. The followers of Christ are to keep watch for their Lord, and their lives should be evidence of this. Christ’s second coming should be on our minds and in our hearts, now in such a way that we stop everything we’re doing and sit still, but in such a way that it affects everything we’re doing. Are you being faithful and honoring your master until he comes or wicked and dishonoring your master forgetting His return?

In verses 25:1-13 Jesus moves to the parable of the ten virgins. The virgins are essentially bridesmaids in a wedding. They are waiting for the groom to come so they could go with him into the wedding feast. However, five bridesmaids were prepared and five were not. The five who were not prepared were left out of the wedding feast. This parable speaks to people who are not prepared to persevere until Jesus comes back. They have enough oil to burn lights for a bit, but they do not have enough to persevere through the night until the groom comes. The kingdom of heaven is not for those who simply respond to an invitation, or simply make a confession, or merely express some affection. The kingdom of heaven is only for those who endure in salvation. We are prepared for the kingdom, for Christ’s return as we trust in Him daily. We must persevere in faith and trust Christ at all times.

In verses 25:14-30 we see a story that goes beyond the watching and waiting for Jesus to return and focuses primarily on working until Jesus comes back. Jesus speaks of servants entrusted with varying amounts of talents. And there is a parallel in this story that is clear, Jesus is our Master who has given us much and we are His stewards responsible for that which has been entrusted to us. We are to work diligently and honor our Master by maximizing what He has given us. We must remain faithful while we wait for His return. We must be faithful with what He has given us.

In verses 25:31-46 Jesus is identifying Himself with His followers, His brothers, those who have trusted in Him. This passage calls us to examine whether we are serving Christians in need whom God has put around us while we wait for His return. We are to serve Christians whom God has put around us not because you want to get to heaven, but because Jesus has changed our hearts. Our love for other believers is constantly held out in Scriptures as a mark that God has made us His own (John 15:12; 1 John 4:7-8; 19-21).

However, what is obvious from every one of these stories in Matthew 24-25 is that when we die, or when Jesus comes back, all of us will be divided between two destinations. We will all stand along before God at judgement and some will receive unhindered enjoyment of the Father’s love and others will experience total separation from the Father’s love. In light of all this, we must ask ourselves “Am I ready for His return? Am I clinging to Christ today?”

Discussion - Looking at the text

1. What were some take aways from the sermon? What convicted you? What stood out to you? Explain.
2. Describe the difference between the faithful slave and the wicked slave in Matthew 24:45-51.
3. In your own words, what does it mean to keep watch for Christ, and how is this mind-set different from inactivity?
4. How are endurance and faithfulness, marks of a true, saving faith, different from attempting to earn a right standing before God?
5. How does the reality of eternal punishment affect how you live day to day?
6. How does Matthew 24:42-25:26 speak to the glory of Jesus Christ?
7. What are some evidences that we are true followers of Christ? Do you see these evidences in your own life?
8. Do you recognize the talents/gifts God has given you? How might someone maximize the gifts given to Him by God?
9. Are you ready for Christ return? Are you clinging to Christ today? What are some things that are hindering your relationship with 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 or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

June— Serve Shreveport
July— Community Outreach