

“The Son of Man is Coming At An Hour You Do Not Expect”

Sermon Notes

- **This Palm Sunday, let's remember that the real triumphal entry into Jerusalem is yet to come**

**Jesus Christ is coming soon, and ...*

1. ...true Christians will be found _____, _____ and _____ (vv.35-44; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

2. ...false converts will be found _____, _____ and _____ (vv.45-48; 2 Peter 3:3-4)

Next Week: Acts 17:16-34 - “Preaching Jesus and the Resurrection”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the Week of March 25th-31st

Getting Started

1. When was the last time you thought about the return of Jesus? What brought it to mind? Would you say the second coming of our Lord comes to your mind often, every once in a while, or almost never? Explain.

Digging Deeper

2. The second coming of Christ is alluded to some 300 times in the pages of the New Testament (1 out of every 25 verses). 23 of the 27 New Testament books reference this critical doctrine. How much preaching and teaching in the context of the local church (either ours or previous ones you may have been a part of) have you heard on this topic? If your answer is “very little” or “not much”, why do you suppose that is?

Open Your Bible to Luke 12:35-48...

3. What is the relationship between what Jesus says in Luke 12:31-32 and today’s passage? Do you see a connection? If so, what is it?
4. In verses 35-36, Jesus speaks in first century imagery to stress the importance of being prepared for his return. What are some practical ways that we “Stay dressed for action” and “keep [our] lamps burning” as we look toward his second coming? On the other hand, what sorts of things lessen our resolve for Christ’s return?
5. Jesus makes it clear that no one knows the hour of his return (v.40). Article 9 of our Statement of Faith in the Evangelical Free Church of America reads (in part): “The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.”
According to this statement, what does Luke 12:40

“demand” and to what does it “motivate” us? Does this truth function that way in your own life? If so, how...specifically?

6. In Luke 12:41, Peter asks: “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” Who is the “us” in Peter’s question? Who is the “all”? Is he making a distinction between disciples (12:22) and the crowd (12:13), or between the 12 apostles and the broader band of disciples (9:1; 10:1)? How do you know? Why does it matter? Does Jesus’ answer to Peter in verses 42-44 help you to decide the subjects of Peter’s question? Why or why not?

7. What are the final words Jesus speaks in the entire Bible (see Revelation 22:20)? How do these words contrast with the words of the servant in Luke 12:45? Have you ever had thoughts like this man? How does the servant’s inner-conviction about the return of his master lead him to live (Luke 12:45)? Be honest, when you sin, how often are you thinking something similar? Compare and contrast the three servants in Luke 12:45-58. What do they have in common? How are their stories different?

8. In verse 48, Jesus says: “Everyone to whom much was given of him much will be required...”. Ephesians 2:8-10 is a wonderful, gospel-centered parallel to the words of Christ in Luke 12:48. How do Paul’s words provide a theological framework for what Jesus says? How do Jesus’ words act as practical marching orders in view of the theological framework Paul provides?