

Intro: While I was away on vacation I stopped at a small store to get a cup of coffee early one morning. I wasn't eavesdropping, but the man right behind me was talking on the phone. Contractor using the coffee shop as his office! As I was making my coffee I heard him say, well tell me what you want. Beach house.....or a home? Because that is going to make a difference in what we build! Beach house is a box you stay in a couple times a year, rent out...one thing...but if this is going to be your HOME, then you want the finishes...bathrooms...kitchens...more comfortable!

Got my coffee...walking back to my hotel...stopped in middle of street! Thought...that's it...THAT is what ALL the biblical writers are trying to tell us about how we are to live in this world as we wait for Jesus to return for us! This world is Not My Home...it's just a place in we live while we wait for our REAL home...DON'T GET COMFORTABLE! That's what Paul meant when he wrote in 1Cor 2:9 "*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him*" Focus on the place you are going...REAL HOME, not this box!

This morning we begin a brand new series I am calling, "Not My Home" What we are going to do for the next 6 weeks is talk about End Times, specifically the return of Jesus for His Church. We are going to begin where we are, right now in church history, and go all the way to eternity!

Take your bibles and turn with me to Matthew 24, and lets start this journey by looking at what Jesus told His disciples were the "signs" or indications that the end is near.

Not My Home: Matthew 24:3-14

First, lets get a little perspective, OK? Take a look at this graphic, because it is going to help you understand the events that we are talking about! What? That isn't helpful? Well then...what about THIS! MUCH BETTER!

I showed you that to make a point. Our focus is going to be on the PRACTICAL APPLICATION of HOW WE SHOULD LIVE in our "box" ...rather than trying to dissect every minute detail of the End Times...most of which is complete speculation...because...and this is key: Jesus told us: Mt 24:36 "*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only!*"

So, lets see where we ARE...and then lets talk about where we are going...and what the journey is going to be like.

OVERVIEW SLIDE: You Are Here! 6 Key Events

1. Jesus Told Us That There Will Be Signs In Church Age To Let Us Know His Return Is Imminent. 24:3-15

Take a look at the signs Jesus details for us, and I think you will agree...they look very familiar!

~Vs 5: Antichrists	~Vs 6: Wars and Rumors of Wars	~Vs 7: Famine/Earthquakes
~Vs 9: Persecution/Tribulation	~Vs 10: Many fall away	~Vs Hated for my name
~Vs 11: False Prophets	~Vs Lawlessness increased	~Abomination of Desolation
~Vs 14: Gospel preached to the ends of the earth!		

Now, we can quibble over details...and trust me...there is NO area of theology more uncertain and controversial than this one...but even with that, you have to agree that as we look at our world...every single day it looks just a little bit more like what Jesus described than the day before.

FIRST TAKE AWAY: We are closing in on the end...Depending on how your interpret some of the events in this chapter, we are CLOSE!

2. No One Knows When Christ Will Return. 24:36

I am always amazed when otherwise solid bible teachers and preachers try to put a time on the return of Christ. All you have to do is read your bible and Jesus made it very clear than no one knows. In fact, I believe is one of the predictors got lucky and hit on the right time, God would change it!

During my ministry I have seen a number of otherwise Godly men and women just ignore this verse...and make a prediction! Years ago a local pastor did that...convinced his church of the date...Yard Sell: WHY? Money? Just 10 years ago well respected radio preacher of many years: Set a date, passed...Set another date! Credit: Letter Apology

Look at what Jesus had to say about this...He tells us what we can expect.

- 37: Like in the days of Noah Gen 6:5 *Wickedness was great...Thoughts of the heart evil continually*
- 38: Eating, Drinking, Marrying, *“Living Life for themselves”*
- 39: Unaware of any impending judgment or danger *Living as if this life is all there is!*
- 44: Totally unexpected *Not realizing His return is even possible (talk about it...think you’re crazy!)*

SECOND TAKE AWAY: No one knows the day or hour! (Any time hear that: ALARM!!!! FALSE TEACHER!

3. So, How Do We Live As We Wait?

24:32-45

What should we do as we wait? Should we sell everything we have and sit and look at the sky? What does Jesus tell us He expects of us...what does a spiritually wise man or woman do?

- Live CONFIDENT 24:32-26 *“my word will NOT pass away”*
He will keep His promise and return for His people.
2 Peter: People will say: “Where is His return!” Don’t worry...He is faithful: Stay confident
- Live READY 24:44
We need to live like it could be today!
Illus: Grandmother: Just remember...Do you want to be there/doing that...if Jesus comes back!
Ready: Lit = *Adjusted, Prepared, Ready to hand*: Have your bags packed and be ready to go!
- Live FAITHFUL: 24:4
Lit = Faithful: *trustworthy to carry out the directions of another*
Probably refers to ALL of what Jesus taught us, but one simple application: *Faithful to SHARE GOSPEL*
If we REALLY believe it could be today...*Changes everything! Time is of essence: Can’t wait!*
- Live WISELY: 24:45
Wise: Lit = *to be circumspect and careful to do the right thing*, Live like today might be your LAST DAY!
If today was all you had...and if this one opportunity was you last and best opportunity: What would you do
- LIVE AWARE OF JUDGMENT: 25:14-30
This is a parable told in the context of living in light of the return of Christ
We typically use it to talk about stewardship, making a difference, using our talents. All correct
But keep in mind...the context is...Jesus is coming...and He is going to take account
~Talents ~Time ~Investment ~Ministry
Basically He is going to say, what did you do with what I gave you?
How did you use your talents...your gifts...your resources?
Did you use them for yourself...or did you use them the way I intended?
Don’t forget...He’s coming back for YOU...and we all give account! Point of the parable

CONCL: The return of Jesus Christ for His Church..for YOU if you know Him as Lord and Savior is imminent. All the signs are there...It could be at any time! As we close today there is 1 Big Question: 4 questions I want you to ask

- Are you LIVING like it could be today?
- Do you need to “get ready?” Guest coming to house
Maybe you are NOT READY for when He returns: Need to accept Him as Lord and Savior
- Are there some things you need to DO...
- Are there some things you need to NOT DO

If there are some things the Spirit of God has put on your heart...to do. Don’t wait. Go home...and do them...Get ready...BE ready...for Jesus to return