**Title:** He’s coming! (Matt. 24:32-51) – The Certainty of Coming / Uncertainty of Timing

1. Jesus made it clear *that* He is coming (vvs. 32-35)
2. There are signs. (vvs. 32-33)

**May 14, 1948** – Date Israel became a nation again.

***Matt. 24:32*** – Jesus used the budding of the fig tree as a parable, not a sign.

***Luke 21:29*** – Luke includes other trees in this parable.

***Matt. 24:3*** – The disciples’ original question was, “What will be the sign of your coming?”

***2 Peter 1:16-21*** – Peter says we can place greater confidence in God’s Word than we can in signs and even personal experience.

1. There is surety. (vs. 34-35)

***Matt. 24:34*** – Jesus promised these events would be fulfilled before the generation died. What did Jesus mean by “generation?”

***Matt. 24:22*** – Jesus said that life will be harsher than ever during the Tribulation. It’s amazing anyone survives!

***Matt. 24:35*** – Jesus promised His Words would not pass away.

***Matt. 5:18*** – Not even the smallest detail of God’s Word will fail.

Noah and Abraham, among others, experienced the faithfulness of God’s promises (also known as prophecies).

1. Jesus left it unclear *when* He is coming (vvs. 36-51)

Because there is no certainty to the timing of Jesus’ return, people will usually respond to the news of His future arrival in one of four ways. Their response puts them into a category.

1. Disputers (vvs. 37-42; Luke 17:26-36) – “I don’t have a Lord. I don’t believe He’s coming, so I’m not going to do anything about it.”

***Matt. 24:37*** – Jesus compared the world at His coming to the world of Noah’s day.

***Luke 17:28*** – Jesus compared the world at His coming to the world of Lot’s day.

***2 Peter 2:5; Gen. 19:14*** *–* Both societies received warning of impending judgment but failed to adequately respond.

1. Doubters (vs. 43) – “I have a Lord. I’m pretty sure He’s coming back, but I don’t know when, so I’m not going to do anything about it.”

***Matt. 24:43*** *–* The homeowner didn’t know when the thief was coming, so he wasn’t prepared for it.

***Matt.* *24:42, 44*** – Jesus said we must be prepared all the time.

Imminence – likely to occur at any moment; impending

1. Dutiful (vs. 45-47) – “I have a Lord. I’m convinced He’s coming back. I believe it’s soon, so I’m going to do something good about it now.”

***Matt. 24:45*** – The faithful and good servant delivers food to the Master’s household when told to do it.

1. The relationship of the servant to the Master.

***Matt. 24:45, 46*** – Jesus refers to his servant as a “slave.”

1. The responsibility of the servant to the Master

***John 21:17*** – “Feed my sheep”; Jesus to Peter

***1 Peter 5:2-4*** – Peter tells pastors to feed their flock with a willing, humble attitude.

***Matt. 25:21*** – “Well done, good and faithful servant…”

1. The reward to the servant from the Master

***Luke 17:7-10*** – The slave does what is required of him before he meets his own needs and without expecting recognition.

***Matt. 24:46*** – The first reward Jesus gives is a blessing.

***Matt. 24:7*** – The second reward Jesus gives is advancement.

***Gen. 39:2-4*** – As Joseph experienced, doing a job well gives new responsibilities and privileges.

***Matt. 19:28; Rev. 20:4*** – Those slaves who perform well will rule and reign with Jesus.

1. Disobedient (vs. 48-51) – “I have a Lord. I’m convinced He’s coming back, but I believe it’s later. So I’m going to do something bad about it.”

***Matt. 24:48-49*** *–* The slave doesn’t believe the Master is coming back for a long time, so he begins to do evil.

***Proverbs 10:26*** – A improperly acting messenger is painful to those who send him.

Quote from Brennan Manning about hypocrisy’s effect on Christianity.

***Prov. 14:35*** – The bad slave brings shame to his master.

***Prov. 25:13*** – The good slave brings refreshment to his master.

***Matt. 24:49*** – The evil slave eats and drinks with drunkards.

***Matt. 11:19*** – Jesus accomplished His mission by spending time with drunkards.

Quotes about how your view of eschatology (end of the world) will affect your current actions.

***Matt. 11:23; Luke 12:48*** – Jesus said the most severe judgment was reserved for those who had the most information and chose to ignore it.

***Matt. 24:51*** – This evil servant will be “cut in pieces.” (1 Sam. 15:32-33)

**James 1:8; 4:8** – Hypocrites are already “in pieces”; double-minded.

***Rev. 22:15*** – One group excluded from Heaven are those who “love and practice lying”; “all who love to live a lie” (NLT).