

The Jesus Way – Faith Over Fear

If I sat down with you this morning and said that I had something very important to share with you... and what I said was **"Jesus is coming soon!"** What would your response be?

- *"I've heard that before... We still have time!"*
To that Jesus says – **Matthew 24:37-44**

The Jesus way is to be prepared for when the end comes!

- *"Why don't you just tell us the 'when'... so we know when to get ready?"*
To that Jesus says – **Matthew 24:36, Matthew 25:1-13**

The Jesus way is to live as if it could be today, without knowing the when!

- *"Doesn't the Bible tell us what to look for so that we can figure out when the day will come?"* To that Jesus says – **Luke 21:28, 31.**
There are some things that Scripture does tell us to look for:

But... there is a difference between the day being "near" & the day being "here" – **Matthew 24:8.**

The Jesus way is more about heeding the warning signs & feeling the birth pains, than it is about knowing the day & the hour of His return!

- *"So should we just stop everything in our lives and just wait for His arrival?"* To that Jesus says – **Matthew 25:14-30**

The Jesus way is not just watching and waiting, looking above... It is making the most of the time we have left... to take what God has entrusted to us & add to it for His glory & the Kingdom's expansion!

- *"Should we be afraid of the day of His coming, or long for it?"*
To that Jesus says – **Matthew 25:31-34, 41**

The Jesus way is knowing that a final judgment is coming & being found on the side of Righteousness rather than the side of eternal punishment.

Jesus also says this to those who are "in Christ" – **John 14:1-3**

- *"How should we live in response to this realization?"*
To that Jesus says – **John 14:12**

The Jesus way is the Jesus way... the question is, is our way - His way? When Jesus' time here on earth was coming to an end, what did he do? Did He preach more... Try to validate himself... Destroy his enemies... Watch/wait?

John 13:1-14, 33-35 The Jesus way is not a set of beliefs, it is a way of life!

When Jesus returns and separates the sheep from the goats, the question is going to be raise... "On what basis are we on this side or that?"

To that Jesus says – **John 14:6 - "I am the way, & the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

But how can we be certain that we have believed in Jesus... that we are true followers of Jesus... that we have a place in His Kingdom when He returns?

Matthew 25:34-46 The Jesus way is to live to feed the hungry... to welcome the stranger in... to stand beside the broken... to wash one another's feet... to love one another as we have been loved by God in Christ!

We are saved by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone! James says it this way – **James 2:14-18 - "I will show you my faith by my works."**

Jesus is the only way to God, but our works give evidence to our status there. So let me say it again, "Jesus is coming soon!" So what?

Let's stop asking the wrong questions:

- *"Why don't you just tell us when... so we know when to get ready?"*
- *"Doesn't the Bible tell us what to look for so that we can know when the day will come?"*
- *"Should we just stop everything in our lives & just wait for His arrival?"*

Rather, let's answer the right questions:

- **"How should we live in response to this realization?"**
- *"Should we be afraid of the day of His coming, or long for it?"*

The day of Jesus' 2nd coming is soon... Will we be found ready?

Will faith or fear shape our eschatology? Fear only looks up to the clouds... Faith looks out to those in need and lives out the Jesus way until His return!

When Jesus does return, I want to hear these words from Him, **"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master."** Don't you?

With everything going on in the world right now, where is our focus?

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What would your response be?

- *“I’ve heard that before... We still have time!”*
To that Jesus says – **Matthew 24:37-44**

The Jesus way is to be _____ for when the end comes!

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But... there is a difference between the day being _____ & the day being _____ – **Matthew 24:8.**

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When Jesus’ time here on earth was coming to an end, what did he do?
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We are saved by faith alone, but not by a faith that _____ James says it this way – **James 2:14-18 - “I will show you my faith by my works.”**

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Rather, let’s answer the right questions:

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Will _____ shape our eschatology? Fear only looks up to the clouds... Faith looks out to those in need and lives out the Jesus way until His return!

When Jesus does return, I want to hear these words from Him, **“Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master.”** Don’t you?

With everything going on in the world right now, where is _____

Matthew 24:37-44 - ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:36 - ³⁶“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but the Father only.

Matthew 25:1-13 - “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps^[a] and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Luke 21:28, 31 - Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” **31** - So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Matthew 24:8 - All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Matthew 25:14-30 - ¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants^[a] and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents,^[b] to another two, to another one, to each according to his

ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.^[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Matthew 25:31-34, 41 - “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

John 14:1-3 - “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God,^[a] believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³And if I go and prepare a

place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 14:12 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

John 13:1-14 - Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,^[a] but is completely clean. And you^[b] are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 13:33-35 - ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Matthew 25:34-46 - Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for

you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,^[a] you did it to me.' ⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

James 2:14-18 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good^[a] is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.