

'The Real Jesus' – Part 54 Matt 24v1-51 (Part 1)

1) *Have you come across the concept of Jesus' return before? If so, how did it make you feel?*

2) Read the passage Matthew 24v1-51.

Which parts of Rich's talk would you like to discuss in your Small Group this week? Why?

3) Read the passage 2 Peter 3v3-15. The phrase 'the last days' (v3) in the Bible always refers to the time between Jesus' first coming and his final return, rather than the time just before his final return. So this passage is talking about people now.

a) i) *Why does this passage say people don't believe Jesus will return?*

ii) Why does it say God is taking a long time?

iii) What do you think v10 means when it says the day 'will come like a thief'?

b) This passage says that the fact of Jesus' return should affect the way we live now.

i) In what ways should it affect our life now?

ii) Why does Jesus' return mean we should live in this way?

v12 and v14 say we are to 'look forward' to the day of Jesus' return.

iii) Why should Christians eagerly look forward to Jesus' return? What mustn't stop us looking forward eagerly?

iv) How does this passage suggest people who are not Christians should feel about Jesus' return? Why?

v) What specific changes do you personally need to make in your life?

c) i) *What doubts or concerns do you personally have about Jesus' return?*

ii) Is there anything you could do or someone you could talk to, to help address your doubts or concerns?

4) Digging Deeper Question – for those who want to study a bit extra

Re-read 2 Peter 3v3-15

a) *What Biblical event do you think v6 refers to?*

Rich said that in the Bible ‘types’ are like mini-previews of events or people.

b) *In what ways could this event be a ‘type’ of the final day of the Lord?*

c) *What other Old Testament events could be seen as types of day of the Lord? Why?*

d) *What do you think is the significance of ‘fire’ in v7, v10 and v12?*

Talking about Jesus’ return, v12 says that we can ‘speed its coming’.

e) *How do you think we can do that?*

Please Pray:

Berlin: As Nigel shared with us at Plumpton, he has set a target of having four Small Groups by October. Please pray that the church plant will continue to grow and that this target is achieved.

Please pray for the final week of **The Parenting Course** which is on **Wednesday 4th July @ 8pm**. Please pray that the course will have had a really positive impact on those who have attended. Pray that we will also see non-church members connecting with King’s Church as a result of the course.

Please pray for **Newday** which is on **Mon 13th - Sat 18th August**: Pray for good weather during the week which is especially important as they will be camping. Pray that the young people going will meet with God, have fun and get on well together. Please pray for their leaders Jack and Rachel - that God will provide them with the energy that they will need for the week.

Notices:

Prayer Evening on Sunday 1st July. Please join us as we seek to encounter God.

Movement - Men’s Event 2012 with PJ Smyth. **Friday 13th - Saturday 14th July.** The event will commence at 10.30am on the Friday and run through till the late afternoon of the Saturday. Tickets cost £30 for a day or £35 for both days. You can still book in online at **www.movementevent.com**.

We are having a **Church Treasure Hunt** on **Sunday 15th July**. The treasure hunt starts at the building at 2pm and everyone will finish at the Grange by 5pm for a picnic tea together. Visitors are very welcome so this is a great opportunity to invite friends and family along. Talk to your small group leaders this week about co-ordinating teams and arranging a bring-and-share picnic tea to share between your group and any guests you have invited.