



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

10 OCT 2021 | WHY WE DO NOT LONG FOR JESUS' RETURN MATTHEW 24:3-31

Series: Jesus is Coming Back (Pt 2/5) | Speaker: Josh Yeoh



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Blessed Assurance (My King is Coming)
 2. The Return
 3. Soon
-



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on our hearts' attitudes and condition as the Church waits for Jesus' return.
2. To respond to God's call to be a Church that longs for His return.

SERMON SUMMARY

In the previous week, Josh covered the four signs of Jesus coming back:

- a. Disasters in the earth
- b. Developments in the church (persecution, pressure, proclamation)
- c. Distress in Jerusalem (Abomination of Desolation) and
- d. Darkness in the heavens (Jesus comes again)

Josh continues on his preaching of the Olivet Discourse, looking again at Matthew 24 with another question for our consideration – why we don't long for Jesus to return. May our hearts be awakened to long for His return.

- **Reason 1: We Don't Care / Indifference (v 12)**

- "The love of many will grow cold..."
- Josh shared about the experience he had with recording the song "Purify" and how he felt led to sing about "Laodicea". Ps Francis Chan also spoke about the church of Laodicea on the day the song was released.
- [Revelation 3:17-19](#)
- "If to love is to obey, when I don't obey then it's not an obedience problem, it's a love problem." – When we have problems obeying, it is because we love something else more than God – it can be reputation, family, even our own selves. What is in the way of us obeying God?
- We usually only recognise how much worth a person or object has in our lives when it is removed and it results in our world crashing down. How much do our lives change when Jesus is removed from our lives?

"The opposite of love is not hate, but indifference." – **Elie Wiesel** (Activist, Professor, Nobel Prize Laureate, Holocaust survivor).

- While Jesus' first coming was one that was quiet and without much announcement, Jesus' second coming will be one that is glorious and one that everyone will know of. God is not indifferent to the return of His Son.
 - May the Lord awaken us from slumber, indifference, apathy; and to be aware of the return of His Son.
- **Reason 2: We Don't Understand (v 4)**
 - "See that no one leads you astray (no one deceives you...)"
 - There are times where we do not long for His return because we do not understand. However, Paul shows us that it is possible - he planted the church at Thessalonica and taught them for the short period he was there.
 - The word taught is full of information of the coming of Christ and formed the basis of everything the apostles taught. It is described as elementary doctrine and is meant to be simple ([Hebrews 6:1-2](#)).
 - There are times where we are confused by wrong teachings – however, the enemy does not want the church to know about the end of the age, for the church that knows the end will be empowered with courage to endure through the hardest days of warfare and confusion ([Matthew 24:25](#))
 - Jesus desires that we have clarity and it is needful for us to keep sight of this importance.
 - Using the analogy of the engaged and married woman, it is important that the church is focused on the wedding rather than getting caught up in the engagement.
 - The gospel is not just what He has done but what He will do - we need to proclaim both the First and Second coming.
 - We will encounter times where we struggle to understand God's ways. In these moments, we can turn to our spirit family for wisdom and understanding ([2 John 1:6-7](#)):
 - Doing life together in love protects us against deception. To love Biblically is to have our love for one another centred in God and what He says. May we be such a community to each other ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#)).
- **Reason 3: We Are Frightened (v 6)**
 - "See that you are not alarmed [frightened; troubled] ..."
 - Revelation is a book of majesty, mystery (about what is to come) and misery.
 - It is important for us to have the correct lens when we read and interpret the book. The book of Revelation is about Jesus Christ, who loves His bride so much that He came to redeem her.

- When we love someone, we desire to know everything about the person, and not just about loving the ideas of the person.
- Revelation is the only book that states a blessing for those who read it ([Revelations 1:3](#)). It gives a road map about the very end. When we know what comes at the end, it empowers us to go through the various challenges the end times will bring.
- After Jesus preached about the end in [Matthew 24](#), He also assured His disciples in [Matthew 28](#) that He will always be with them.
- **Reason 4: We Don't Know Him Enough ([v 14](#))**
 - Jesus was lifted up during the ascension ([Acts 1:9-11](#)). Jesus will come back the same way He left.
 - Josh encouraged members to meditate on the humanity of God whenever we are in a rut or struggle with intimacy with Him.
 - Josh shared about the analogy of how families wave goodbye to their loved ones at the airport. His disciples missed Him dearly because they knew Him.
 - They had lived and spent every single moment with Him and experienced the pain of loss of living with Jesus. At the same time, the disciples were told how He would return by taking the gospel to those who have yet to know Him. Imagine their passion and zeal to do so as to facilitate Jesus' return.
 - When we do not know Him enough, it is normal that we will not miss nor long for Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share your experience / thoughts after listening to the past two sermons and/or our midweek series with Ps Peter Tsukahira. Were there any learning points/reflections sparked?** [\[15 Mins\]](#)
2. **What characteristics does God desire of His bride whether in persecution, the end times or today?** [\[15 Mins\]](#)
3. **Josh shared about the 4 reasons why many Christians do not long for Jesus to return. Do you identify with any of these reasons? Why a change of heart attitude necessary and how can you make that happen?** [\[15 Mins\]](#)



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Pray that:**
 - Every disciple in RiverLife will know Jesus intimately and desire His will to be done.
 - Every disciple in RiverLife will awaken to the reality and nearness of Jesus' return.
 - We will evaluate how prepared we are for His coming and to truly live in light of His return.
 - For wisdom and grace to live out as faithful witnesses and to boldly proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- God's intervention as we experience a sharp increase in the number of community cases and a return to tighter social measures in society.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek mature in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **Jesus Is Coming Back Sermon Series – Weekly Rhythms.** On top of the weekly Sunday Sermons, there will be two additional platforms as part of this series:
 - **RiverLife Prayer Room on Tuesday at 8pm.** This coming Tuesday night, our Prayer Room team will partner with Burning Hearts for a special time of Worship and Intercession.
 - **Equipping Sessions on Thursday night at 8pm with Peter Tsukahira.** Our next session will cover the topic on The Antichrist. (Note: Recordings for each session will be made available only for one week after the session)
2. **Missions from Home.** What does Missions look like when we're unable to travel? We believe God is calling RiverLifers to sow continually and faithfully into the nations by partnering Him and adapting in the way we approach Missions. We have 104 RiverLifers who have signed up for 9 MFH teams, reaching out to India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. Over the next few months, they will be collaborating with our Missions Partners to develop missions projects that provide prayer support, resources and raise awareness for their ministries. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: rlc.sg/mfh. Join a MFH team: rlc.sg/mfh-serve
3. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
4. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

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VIEWS ON THE END TIMES

NEW SERMON SERIES:

JESUS IS COMING BACK

3 - 31 OCT

WHEN WILL JESUS RETURN?

