

Bible chat week starting 27 11 22

Matthew 24: 36 - 44

36 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him

You might like to glance through the rest of Matthew 24 to give some context for your reflections on this scripture.

1. On the first Sunday of Advent we traditionally reflect on the return of Christ. Some say this is a grossly neglected doctrine that churches should emphasise more; others find it tricky to believe literally in a second coming of Christ. Where do you stand, and why?
2. In the above verses, what is Jesus wanting to emphasise about the nature of the second coming?
3. How then should Christians live in the light of your answer to question 2?
4. In Advent we also prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ as a baby in a manger. How can you use this time of waiting and preparation fruitfully?
5. In spiritual terms, what brings you the most joy at Christmas? How can you prepare to receive that joy, rather than the more superficial seasonal joys?
6. Sarah, who was David's guest in the podcast this week, spoke of a 'reverse advent calendar'. As we wait for peace and justice to reign on the earth, what practical things could we do as an expression of our advent hope for a better world?