

SERMON SERIES DISCIPLING GUIDE

Series: As It Is In Heaven • Sermon: Return of the King • Date: Jan. 5/6, 2019 • Speaker: Wade Paton

INTRODUCTION

This past weekend, Wade continued our "As It Is In Heaven" series from the fall with a look at Jesus' Second Coming.

Before we dig in, take a minute to reflect together after some down time and vacation over Christmas.

- What were some highlights for you personally over Christmas?
- What did you see God doing over this time?
- Did you find any moments, times or interactions with others where you could make use of some the discipling principles or tools?

Take a minute and refamiliarize yourselves with the passage. Have someone read **1st Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**.

Wade made two central observations from this passage:

1. Jesus' return will be "decisive" (it will mark the end of history as we know it)
2. Jesus' return will be "surprising" (not surprising *that* it happens, but *when* it happens)

These observations lead us to two implications:

1. It motivates a sense of passionate urgency

- What would be the difference between panic and passionate urgency?
- What does it look like for us to live with "passionate urgency" in our day to day?
- When you reflect on the one life you have been given, how would you describe your "motivation or urgency level" in regards to following Jesus and being on mission in light of His imminent return? (*This question is not meant to produce guilt, because we know none of live this out perfectly... but it is meant to help us reflect*)
- What do you think hampers or gets in the way of our passionate urgency or motivation level? Reflect on this for yourself, but also reflect in general. Those who you are, or will, disciple will walk through this as well.
- How would you encourage each other, or those you disciple in this area?

2. It inspires hope

- What are some hopeful images from scripture that come to your mind when you think about Jesus' return and "the end"?
- What are some things that you look forward to when you consider Jesus' return?
- What are ways that you live life, make decisions and prioritize things that are the result of your hope in Jesus and His return? How are these counter-cultural? As you disciple others, these are great windows into how hope in Jesus' return changes things practically, and can encourage and challenge others.

PRAYER

There are so many questions that accompany this topic. *When will it happen? Why hasn't it happened yet? What is He waiting for? What will it really be like?* And for those who are struggling in their faith, it may be a question of whether it will happen or not.

Take some time as a group and pray for the church. Pray for your group. Pray for those you are or hope to begin discipling. Pray that they discover the hopefulness of this truth, and that it begins to inspire passionate urgency in their lives!

CHALLENGE

Now that we are in the new year, consider how you are to re-engage in discipling relationships. What does it look like for you this New Year? Are there names that God has brought to your mind over the break? Are there people you need to re-connect with or invite into a discipling relationship? How will you ensure discipling remains high on your list of priorities this New Year? **Take some time to reflect on this as a group before you conclude.**

