



Signs of the times part 2



Matthew 24:26-51



Walk the Narrow Way

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13-14

Avoid falling off either side –

- Jesus has not returned; many believed it would happen in their time. Therefore, it is completely unlikely
- Everything we see becomes an investigation into what it means for the second coming.



Deliberately Vague (Mt 24:36)

- Why doesn't God make the timing of Jesus' return clear? Why are we left in the dark?
- Quote – “It is not the destination that matters but enjoying the journey”
- In relation to Jesus' return there are things to do now. A journey to enjoy now!
- Not knowing also should keep us focussed on a trusting relationship with Jesus! We don't know so we must trust the one who does!
- Matthew Henry - ignorance of the timing (v.36) is intentional — God keeps the time hidden to keep believers spiritually alert.
- God keeps it vague – Heart of the matter – Focus on the giver rather than the gift! Learn to know him for who He is not just what he gives or does!





**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON**

Mt 24:37-41

In the face of things happening right now this is good advice – Keep calm, carry on!

When we read these verses “As in the days of Noah” it does indicate that life will carry on as normal and then suddenly we will know things change. So, in the meantime we should carry on with life but living for God!

We are not clearly told the ideas of rapture and millennium – It can be confusing; you have to come to your own conclusion. –We need simple faith that God knows best!

How should we live ?

- Holiness – Purity.
 - *Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*
 - Often before revival there is a heart cry for purity. A putting off of sin and a desire to be more like Jesus!
- Salvation
 - We need to share the message of Jesus! People need to know there is hope
 - *1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*
- Balance – Living watchful seeing what is happening but also being in the moment!



Daily Obedience (Mt24:42-44)



- The story here is about being vigilant! Continuing to steward what God has given us so it is not a surprise when he comes back!
- Faithfulness is proved over time even when we are uncertain about what is to come.
- John Stot – *The faithful servant is not obsessed with the master's return, but absorbed in the master's work*
- Are we absorbed in the work of our master??
- We are still aware of the birth pains that point to Jesus' return, don't be ignorant.



Conclusion

- The timing of the end is – **Deliberately vague.** Make sure you are living right now on the journey and enjoying the journey!
- **Keep calm and carry on!** – Live out your life for Jesus – Seek to be Pure, holy, Share the good news with other people
- **Be obedient daily.** Faithfulness is proved when we are waiting and don't know the end!

Jesus could return soon but the reality is no one knows! Be ready!

