

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**Title:** Jesus Will Return

**Passages:** Revelation 22:20

The final week in our series "Back To Basics: Jesus" sees us look at the fact that Jesus will return. All of us have had to wait for a loved one and some are now in the process of waiting for a loved one. We wait with expectations, either good or bad. Lord Shaftesbury was one who was waiting, not for a loved one but THE loved one, Jesus. He said "I do not think that in the last 40 years I have lived one conscious hour that was not influenced by the thought of our Lord's return." A remarkable claim, but one that shaped so much of his life's work. He was waiting for his loved one, Jesus, to come. So if we are waiting, what are we waiting for? What will Jesus do when he returns?

*#1 Judgement will come:* 2 Peter 3:9-10. There is a day coming when Jesus will judge the living and the dead. No-one will get away with any thought, word or deed. It's Jesus who assigns who gets to heaven or who goes to hell.

*#2 Justice will be served:* Revelation 20:13. Jesus will not only judge, but he will also mete out perfect justice on those who have not repented and turned to follow him. They will be sentenced to the punishment best suited to their sin. For those people, this life on earth is as close to heaven as they will ever get. Justice will either be served on Jesus at the cross or served on us from Jesus at the end.

*#3 Rewards will be given:* 2 Corinthians 5:10. No-one goes to heaven except those saved by grace and faith in Jesus. We are converted not only to Christ but also into his mission. Jesus will judge and reward his followers for how much they got done of what he had prepared for them to do. We cannot lose our salvation but we may not be storing up much treasure in heaven. We are saved by faith and rewarded according to our works.

*#4 Our bodies will be resurrected:* 1 Corinthians 15:42. With each ache, pain and cough we are reminded that our bodies are slowly but surely decaying and dying. Our mortal bodies are not fit for God's eternal kingdom so he will transform them in an instant. God will exchange our current physical covering with a new and more glorious one.

*#5 Shalom will be ours:* Isaiah 2:1-3, Revelation 21:4. When Jesus returns, what was intended will come to pass: goodness, wholeness, peace and harmony all summed up in the Hebrew word Shalom. The curse of the Fall will be lifted and the Shalom of God will ensue. If this is the case, then what do we do with this?

Create an hour this week to do one of the following:

- Wait: Simply wait on God and reflect on the fact that Jesus is coming back. Use the time to do a bible study on Matthew 25, thinking through what those parables mean and pray that you would have a statement like that of Shaftesbury at the end of your life.
- Weep: Let your heart be broken for the sin in your life and the sin in the lives of others. It breaks God's heart, but Jesus will one day vanquish it.
- Work: Spend an hour getting to work on that which you know God has called you to.

**Suggested Questions:**

- 1) Which of the 5 things that Jesus will do when he returns spoke most to you?
- 2) Spend time talking the last three points through with each other. Has anyone managed to do this (wait, weep or work)?
- 3) What do you expect that this small exercise can do in you?