

# MEET THE KING!

with Matthew

'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Mat. 3:17)'



Handouts to help you read & understand –  
for personal Bible study, reading the Bible with a friend or with a group

## 6<sup>th</sup> Session      **THEME: The King's return**

### 1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question.      10 minutes to get started

The Bible clearly tells us that the Lord Jesus will return. If all your questions would be answered, which question about the Lord's return would you like to ask?

#### **Introduction to the passage:**

In Matthew's Gospel we can trace five blocks of teachings. In Matthew 24-25 we find the last block – all these teachings are about Jesus' coming. Jesus does not answer when that will be – even stronger, he says that nobody knows. More important than to know when it is, is not to be led astray from Jesus' true Gospel, nor to be disturbed by the many shocking things that precede his coming. More important than to know when it is, it is to always be aware that he will come and that we have to think of that and be ready for that.

### 2. Read Matthew 25:31-46      30 minutes to understand the passage

#### **Look again at Matthew 25:31-33      His coming will be in glory to judge**

- Are these verses a parable or reality?
- How many details (and which) about his coming do you find in verses 31-32. Why are these details relevant?
- A separation takes place. On which basis?

#### **Look again at Matthew 25:34-45      The basis of his judgement**

- What strikes you or which questions do you have related to these verses?
- The judgement seems to take place based on works in these verses (see also Romans 2:6-11, Revelation 20:11-15). How can you know for sure that you will get through the final judgement? Or can we now know that?
- Those on the right hand seem not to so much to be surprised that they ended up there, they seem surprised about what they hear. What is it, that surprises them?
- Hatred against Jesus' followers, is hatred against Jesus himself. And to welcome, love and take care of his disciples and those who are sent by him, is to welcome and love Jesus himself. See Matthew 10 verse 40 and 42. Read also Acts 9:4. What changes a person from one who ignores and hates Jesus to one who believes in him?

#### **Look again at Matthew 25:46      The duration of his judgement**

Some say they can't believe that the judgement will last forever, there may be a purgatory or a final annihilation.

- What do you learn about such opinions from this verse?
- Some say God is not loving if He punishes. Does the fact that God judges imply that he is not loving?
- If eternal indeed means eternal, how should this verse awaken the converted and alarm the unconverted?

### 3. Apply and end with prayer.      15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

Read Acts 17:30-31. Take some minutes of silence to think about what God has to say to you personally through this verse. Share and end with prayer.

### 4. Digging deeper.

In many passages we see the same things recur as in this passage. For instance. look at Matthew 24:30-31, 13:37-43, 13:47-50, II Corinthians 5:10, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, II Thessalonians 1:7-10, Revelation 1:7, Revelation 20:11-15