

Short Talk

(SHT029)

Jesus is coming back

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SHORT TALK: “JESUS IS COMING BACK” (SHT029)

Aim of Short talk:	To encourage people to prepare for Jesus’ return by getting to know Him, dealing with the sin in their lives and serving him faithfully.
Main themes:	Advent, The second coming of Jesus, Relationship with Jesus, Sin, Serving.
Biblical references:	1Thessalonians 3:13, 4:16-17, Matthew 24:42, Revelation 22:12, Acts 1:11, 2Peter 3:10-14, Mark 1:17
Props:	Large invitation in a large envelope, dusters and polish, Clipboard

I want you to imagine that in a week’s time the Queen (King) will be visiting this church for a special service.

- For the next couple of minutes, let’s think about what we need to do to get ready for this Royal visit.

The first thing we need to do is send out invitations to people all over this town (city/village),

- inviting them to come here for the service – SHOW LARGE INVITE

The second thing we need to do is make sure that our church is well cleaned and tidied so it is welcoming for such an honoured guest – SHOW DUSTER & POLISH

- Who would like to come and do a bit of dusting around this front area? *(As children come forward give them dusters and tell them to dust around the place)*
- That’s great thank you.....would you like to sit down.

And then the third thing we need to do is prepare what we are going to do when the Queen is here..... SHOW CLIPBOARD

- So we will need people who have gifts in music to prepare some wonderful worship. *(point out different people)*
- We will need people who are good at practical things to move chairs, lay out the red carpet and make sure that the sound system is working properly, *(point out different people)*
- We will need people who are good at welcome to be ready to welcome all the guests. *(point out different people)*
- We will need people who are good at baking to make some great cakes for afterwards. *(point out different people)*

We would do all of this to make sure that the Queen was made welcome when she arrived here.

Today on this first Sunday of Advent we think about someone else arriving;

- someone who is far more important even than our Queen.
- Can anyone guess who this person is? *(receive answers)*
- Yes that’s right it is Jesus.

Jesus, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords,

- has told us through the Bible that one day He will be coming back to earth to reign as King.
- Now we don't know what day He will arrive,
- but Jesus has told us to get ready for Him.

So how do we get ready?

- Here are a few ways:

The first way we get ready is by:

- Replying to His invitation to know Him – SHOW LARGE INVITE.

Jesus invites each one of us into a personal relationship with Himself,

- He says to each one of us, "*Come N (name of person) follow me*" (Mark 1:17) (*Speak these words to a number of different people around the church*)

Have you replied to that invitation yet?

- Have you said: "*Yes Jesus, I will follow you*"

Maybe, you don't understand what Jesus' invitation means,

- and if that is you and you are an adult, do come along to our next Alpha course (*or your local enquirers course*),
- where you will have the opportunity to find out.
- If you are a child.....talk to your parents or one of your Sunday school leaders.

The second way we get ready is by:

- Cleaning up our lives – SHOW DUSTER & POLISH
- Jesus is holy and he wants us to be holy.

We need to clean out of our hearts the dirt of anger and bitterness,

- The dirt of grumbling and complaining,
- The dirt of lying, hate, and cheating.....
- and all of the other dirty sins that lurk there.

Now obviously we can't take a duster and dust away anger, lying, grumbling or whatever the sin is.

- The way to clean ourselves up is to come and say sorry to Jesus for the bad things we do and allow Him to wash us clean.

And then the third way we get ready for Jesus' return is by:

- Working hard at the different things that Jesus asks us to do – SHOW CLIPBOARD
- Most of what Jesus asks us to do involves loving the people around us,
- and being willing to serve them in different ways.

There will be much joy and excitement on the day that Jesus returns for those who are ready for Him.

- Let's make sure that we have:
 - Replied to his invitation,
 - Cleaned up our lives and
 - are working hard at the things He asks us to do,
 - so that none of us misses out on that joy,
- Let's be ready.