

Walking with Jesus through the Eyes of Matthew

“Be Ready”

Matthew 24:42-52

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind
- and to Love One Another as Myself*

Introduction: This Morning is a message that is very unusual for me I speak rarely about the return of Christ for which I feel ashamed. It is certainly not because I do not believe in His return I just believe there are a lot of questions about the timing and actual events that will take place and I have refused throughout my ministry to preach anything I did not have confidence in God forgive for not my lack of understanding.

A. But this morning this message is very clear about two things:

1. Jesus is going to return & We need to be ready!
- I mentioned in the message last week this passage from the Book of Acts: *9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into [a]the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into [b]the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”* Acts 1:9-11

= Church here is one thing that I know for sure that if God says it, it is!

The scriptures say that there is only one thing that God cannot do God cannot lie and if He say He is coming back then He is coming back!

B. Now I am not a date setter I don't know when the safe thing to say is we are moving closer every all the time to the day of His return but the truth is

nobody knows when He is coming back so if you hear someone say they have it figured out run from them they are a false prophet!

1. Jesus said He doesn't even know!
- **36** *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Matthew 24:36*
 - So what man could possibly put himself in a place to know something that Jesus when in the role of a servant did not know?

Transition: So if you know something is going to happen but you don't know when what do you do?

A. I think the Jesus is suggesting in our text this morning that we get ready!

1. I was thinking about folks that are waiting on a transplant:
 - They have to keep themselves as healthy as possible take all their medications, keep their bags packed so when the call comes they go.
 - It really doesn't matter what going on in their life they are gone they have to go there is no choice so they have to be ready!
 2. A lady waiting for a child to be born prepares get everything ready packs a bag goes to her doctor visits get ready then comes the labor pains then here comes the baby and the baby coming ready or not! At that point there is no choice so she has needs to be ready!
- Those are poor illustrations compared to what we have before us in our text this morning but here is the truth Jesus is coming back we have no choice in that and we don't know when so we need to be ready!
- = Jesus begins by putting us on Alert!
- I. **Be On High Alert Verse 42-44**

A. Jesus uses the example of the head of the household which I believe is intentional of course in that God doesn't do anything unintentional!

➤ If the head of the house had known a certain time that a thief was going to break in he could go on to bed go to sleep set the alarm and when the alarm went off get up and stop it from happening because he when it was going to happen.

1. But what if he knew it was going to happen but didn't know when?

- He would have to stay up he would have to stay ready!
- That what Jesus is saying He is not talking about someone breaking in He is not talking about a thief He is talking about being on high alert for something that you know is going to happen but not know knowing exactly when!

B. Now I want to go back up to verse 43 before we move on and visit this phrase head of house hold.

1. In most cases this title falls to the husband the father and is shared with wife and mother.

- This context literally means who is in charge of this particular household!

2. Now Jesus is saying this is who should be on high alert!

➤ Why? Because they are the one who determines what goes on in their home or at least they should be.

- You determine what is done, said, and listen in your home that is why Jesus is putting you the head of the home on high alert prepare your home for the coming of the Lord!

➤ It's not your children (did you hear me) It's not your friends or your neighbors or your extended family it's you the head of the home that determines the readiness.

- Is your house on high Alert you realize that Jesus is returning what will your family be doing when He returns?
 - This thing called Christianity is not a game it is not a fantasy it is real Jesus is coming back and we need to be ready!

Transition: Now let me say this that this part of the warning is to believers be on high alert we know it's to believers because the unbeliever doesn't consider the return of Christ at all.

- So we are to be on high alert and don't stop living!

II. Don't Stop verse 45-47

- A. Hey wouldn't it be cool if Jesus found you doing what you are supposed to be doing when in the day He returns?!!!!
- Listen regardless of how you believe it's going to happen here is what is going to happen: ***29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from [a]the sky, and the powers of [b]the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His [c]elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. Matthew 24:29-31***
 - 1. I get concerned sometimes that we have been hypnotized the world you know like when they swing something in front of you tell you to concentrate on just that.

- And we have become so focused on the world around us that we have forgotten the reality of our life in Christ!
 - This is not a game!
 - This is not a lifestyle!
- To be a believer in Christ is have had your life changed now seeking to please Him in everything!
2. So if I am going to go to Heaven if I am believer if I do anything for Him or not then what is my motivation?
 - Really? Can we really hear ourselves ask that question?
- Is Heaven really the objective of the Christian life do we simply say we believe there is a God because we don't want to go to Hell if there is?
- Are we just covering all are bases?
3. Church there is really only one motivation for being obedient to God and that is simply that we love Jesus!
 - Oh it is true that we have been saved from Hell
 - And it is true that Heaven is a wonderful place and we will spend all eternity there!
- But your love for God is your motivation please Him!
- Our love for God is what compels us to not only be on alert for His return but to not stop working until He does!
- B. God has given us a promise that He is going to return in all His glory but not a date or a time.
1. He knows us with a date and time we would set our alarm clocks go to sleep and wake up just in time.
 - But wants us to have life, he wants us to live for Him.
 - He has work for us to do.

= I know I keep repeating it but He let us has the same attitude as Christ who became a servant even to the cross.

- Jesus knew that His time was short yet He serve the Father right up until they pierced His side!
- 2. I have seen dear saints of God witnessing to nurses as they lay in hospice beds waiting to die!
- 3. And we can't get enough folks out to have a church cleanup day!
- Pastor your being mean your wanting us to pick between Little Johnny's soccer game and serving at the church in some way.
- I am not I saying that you can do both I am saying that we need to be on high alert Jesus is coming back and we need to be found serving God because that is our calling and at some point our service to Him through our church needs to move up the priority line!

Transition: Christian What do you want to be doing when the trumpet sounds and the Lord gathers together His elect?

- I am not being a legalist here nothing wrong with little soccer or anything like that but just an example of priority what are we making our priority?
- Now For the Unbeliever there is going to be a big surprise!

III. **What a Surprise** verse 48-51

- A. Ok so I am not saying that there is no God I just saying if there is he is distant and really has little to do with my life.
 - 1. This is the attitude of most people that we rub shoulders with every day.
- And it is that attitude that makes verse makes verse 51 a reality!

- *51 and will [a]cut him in pieces and [b]assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* Matthew 24:51
- Church here is a reality: If Don't believe that Jesus is going to return in all His glory then you don't believe in the promises of God therefore you don't believe God and are not part of the family of God and not only do you not know the day or the hour but you're not expecting Him at all and you are in for a big surprise a place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth we don't say it out loud in church any more but the name of the place is called Hell!
 - B. When the time comes I will take care of it I will take care of it. Will you?
 - 1. So until then you will just eat drink and be merry live for the world I mean really I man dies comes back to life goes to Heaven and then is going to return for the church and all those that believe with Him.
- I am not holding my breath that church is the attitude of the world and that is why our lives must be on high alert as a witness to the truth!
 - C. I am not trying to scare anyone I am just trying to tell the truth of God's Word!
 - 1. This is a subject that somehow gets avoided and neglected in much of our preaching and teaching.
- There is an ultimate penalty for not believing in God it is not a temporary penalty but is everlasting.
 - It is a place according to verse 51 full of hypocrites: People who acted like believers played the game but never really surrendered to Christ
 - It is a place full of weeping probably because of a remembrance of a message like this give the knowledge and opportunity to by faith receive Christ at His calling.
 - A place of gnashing of teeth: Probably from the pain and anguish of the intense heat and the separation.

➤ Hell is real!!!!

Closing: So let's close with these thoughts:

- A. As believer's let's get up off our seats of complacency and place ourselves on high alert!
 - 1. Let's put our families on high alert
 - Let's adjust our schedules so that God is first in our lives and the lives of our households regardless of who is watching or who is around so that we can be ready and be a witness for others to be ready as well.
- B. This morning if through the message this morning you have realized that you are not what you thought you were and you feel like God has spoken to you and you are ready to make a new commitment to Him and believe Him by faith...
- C. And one more this morning if you would like to just come and pray recommit your priorities and get ready for Christ triumph return I invite you to come and pray!