"Be Ready"

Matthew 24:36-44

Introduction:

- Because no one knows when Christ will return, believers are called to live faithfully, watchfully, and expectantly.

I. The Day Of His Coming Is Unknown

Matthew 24:36–37

A. The Timing Is Known Only By The Father.

- Jesus clearly teaches that no person knows the exact day or hour.
- We should be careful about predictions and date-setting.
- The uncertainty of the timing is intentional—it keeps us dependent upon God.

B. His Coming Will Be As Unexpected As The Days Of Noah.

- Noah preached while people continued with ordinary life.
- They were eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage.
- Life appeared normal right up until judgment came.

C. The World Can Be Busy While Being Spiritually Blind.

- People may be occupied with legitimate things while ignoring eternal things.
- Being busy is not the same as being ready.
- The greatest danger is not necessarily rebellion—it can be **indifference**.

Study Thought: *The fact that Christ has not returned yet does not mean He is not coming.*

II. The Day Of His Coming Will Be Unexpected

Matthew 24:38–41

A. Judgment Came Suddenly In Noah's Day.

- Noah knew what was coming because God had warned him.
- The people around Noah did not take the warning seriously.
- The flood came exactly as God said it would.

B. Two People May Be Doing The Same Thing, But Have Different Spiritual Conditions.

- Two men working in a field.
- Two women grinding at a mill.
- Outwardly, they appear similar.
- Spiritually, there is a tremendous difference.

Important Truth: Being around Christians does not make someone a Christian.

- You can attend church and not know Christ.
- You can sit beside a believer and still be lost.
- You can know about Jesus without personally knowing Jesus.

C. Christ's Return Will Reveal The Difference.

The coming of Christ will separate those who belong to Him from those who do not. **Matthew 25:32–33** — the sheep and the goats.

III. The Command Is To Watch

Matthew 24:42

A. "Watch" Means To Stay Spiritually Alert.

- It carries the idea of being awake, attentive, and watchful.
- We are not called to predict His coming—we are called to **prepare for His coming**.

B. Watchfulness Requires Spiritual Awareness.

We should be aware of:

- The condition of our hearts.
- The temptation around us.
- The opportunities God gives us.
- The needs of others.
- The nearness of Christ's return.

C. Watchfulness Should Affect How We Live

If we genuinely believe Jesus could return, it should change:

- How we worship.
- How we serve.
- How we treat others.
- How we share the Gospel.
- How we use our time.

1 Peter 4:7 — "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

IV. The Return Of Christ Will Be Sudden

Matthew 24:43–44

A. The Thief Does Not Announce His Arrival.

- A homeowner does not prepare for a thief by knowing the exact minute he will arrive.
- He remains prepared because he does not know.

B. We Must Live Prepared, Not Merely Become Prepared.

There is a difference between: **Knowing Christ is coming** and **Living as though Christ is coming.**

C. Readiness Is A Daily Decision.

Jesus does not tell us to figure out **when** He is coming.
He tells us to make sure we are **ready when He comes.**

V. What Does It Mean To Be Ready?

1. Be Saved (John 3:3)

2. Be Serving (1 Corinthians 15:58)

3. Be Separate (Romans 12:2)

4. Be Sharing (Matthew 28:19-20)

5. Be Steadfast (Matthew 24:46)