

## Be Ready!

Mark 13:33-37 (ESV)

33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.

35 Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—

36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Matthew 24:42-44 (ESV)

42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

He said “BE READY”!

He isn’t just “thinking” about coming back...

HE IS COMING BACK!

When is He coming?

He’s coming when we don’t expect Him....

“the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect!”

STAY READY!

He could return anytime....like right now....any moment.

So how do we stay in a place of being ready?

## **I. Beware of Distractions!**

Isaiah 26:3 says you will have perfect peace if you keep your mind focused on Christ.

Matthew 24:5-8

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

## **II. A Principle To Live By**

We should learn to live as if Christ died yesterday...

He arose this morning...

And He's coming back tomorrow!

## **III. Live with the expectation of His eminent return!**

3 Spiritual Results of living with the expectation of His eminent return...

### ***1. It causes us to have a purifying hope!***

1 John 3:2-3

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 Thess. 5:22 (ESV) says, "Abstain from every form of evil."

MEV – "Abstain from all appearances of evil."

### ***2. It causes us to have a redeeming of time mentality!***

Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV)

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,  
16 making the best use of the time (KJV-Redeeming the time), because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Colossians 4:5 (ESV) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Colossians 4:5 (NIV) - Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:5 (KJV) - "Walk in wisdom toward men that are without, redeeming the time."

James 4:14 (ESV) - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Luke 12:37 (ESV) - Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

### ***3. It causes us to have urgency to try to persuade others!***

2 Corinthians 5:11 (ESV) - Therefore, KNOWING THE FEAR OF THE LORD, WE PERSUADE OTHERS. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

KJV – Terror of the Lord

2 Peter 3:3-5 (ESV)

3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,

#### **IV. Focus on the Finish!**

IN THE JEWISH WEDDING TRADITION, As the young man becomes of age to marry, He builds a room onto his father's house, So there will be a place For him and his bride to live.

WHEN THE YOUNG MAN IS READY To get married, He goes to his father And gets permission to go after his bride.

WITH HIS FATHER'S PERMISSION, He goes to collect his bride. She never knows just when he will come for her, So she has to be ready at all times.

WHEN HE IS NEAR HER HOME, A trumpet is blown To let her know he is there. With a shout, he calls her out So she can follow him back to the room he prepared.

WHEN THEY GET TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE He keeps her there For 7 days

AT THE END OF THE SEVEN DAY PERIOD, He goes back with her to her home And claims to the world, his rightful place as a married man.

JESUS IS IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE, And he is building a place For His bride (the church) to live.

WHEN GOD THE FATHER GIVES PERMISSION, Jesus will then come for His bride (Christians) And when he gets here, A Trumpet will sound And a Shout will occur To call his bride to Him.

WHEN WE MEET HIM IN THE AIR, We shall follow Him To His Father's house - - Where He will keep us for 7 years.

AT THE END OF THAT 7 YEARS, Jesus will take us back to earth, Where He claims to the world His rightful place as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

John 14:3 (ESV) - And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Revelation 3:10 (ESV) - Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Matthew 24:30-31 (ESV)

30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (ESV)

51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Mark 13:24-27 (ESV)

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (ESV)

1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,

2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,

10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,

12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Jesus has promised that he will return. Do we believe Him?

When you think about the return of the Lord, do you have fear in your heart or joy because you are ready to meet Him?

Do you live each day with the expectancy that the Lord could return at any moment?

Are you doing your part in helping others be ready for His return?

If you knew this were the day, how would you spend it differently?

Would you tell your neighbors about Jesus?

Would you commit yourself fully to the Lord for the first time?

Do our lives reflect an expectancy that he will come at a moment that we do not expect him?

What do you want to be found doing when He returns?

What do you NOT want to be found doing when He returns?