



The Gospel of Matthew

“Being Ready for His Return”
Matthew 24:36-51



Coming of the Son of Man

Biblical Tension

Imminence/Nearness

and

Unpredictable/Unknowable



Coming of the Son of Man

Matthew 24:36 – 25:46

- the unexpected and unpredictable coming of the Son of Man calls for a constant readiness lest you be caught unprepared

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.”

“Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”

Matthew 24:36-44



Constant Readiness

Three Images

1. Like the days of Noah

- people were caught unawares – life was going on as normal
- no one could evade it – universal judgment
- only those who made advance preparation escaped



Constant Readiness

Three Images

2. Ordinary Workers

- people will be engaged in normal, daily activities when the Son of Man comes
- His coming will bring a sudden, final separation



Constant Readiness

Three Images

3. Thief at night

- like a thief, the coming of the Son of Man will be unexpected and unpredictable
- knowing the unexpectedness of His coming, we are to be ever-ready for it

“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

~~Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.~~

Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’

and shall begin to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;

“the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect and at an hour which he does not know, and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there and the gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 24:45-51



Constant Readiness

Parable of the Two Slaves

1. Wise Slave

- he is faithful in the work of his master during the master's absence and delay
- he is rewarded upon his master's return



Constant Readiness

Parable of the Two Slaves

2. Evil Slave

- he neglected his duties and engaged in wickedness assuming his master would be delayed
- he is severely judged upon his master's return – a *description of final judgment*



Constant Readiness

Are you in a state of readiness?

- are you presently trusting in Christ alone for the forgiveness of your sins?
- are you faithfully following Christ in obedience to all that He calls you to do?
- are you depending on another day to repent and follow Christ?