

Matthew 24:36-51

Introduction:

1. On Sunday evenings we are studying the Lord's teaching recorded in Matthew 24-25.
2. Review:
 - a. (Matthew 23:36) While Jesus was speaking in the temple He pronounced destruction upon that generation.
 - b. (24:1a) Jesus left the temple.
 - c. (24:1b) The disciples showed Jesus the temple and the surrounding buildings.
 - d. (24:2) Jesus told the disciples that the temple would be destroyed.
 - e. (24:3) The disciples asked Jesus several questions.
 - f. (24:4-28) Jesus answered the first question: "*When shall these things be?*" [When would the temple be destroyed?]
 - a. Jesus warned His disciples not to be deceived.
 - b. He gave a number of signs that would occur before the temple was destroyed.
 - c. He gave His disciples instructions to follow so they would not lose their lives.
 - g. (24:29-35) As Jesus concluded what He had to say about the temple's destruction, He showed that He would return at a later time.
3. Beginning at 24:36 Jesus talked at length about His return.
4. (24:36-51) Jesus emphasized the importance of watching and being prepared for His return.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.36) JESUS TALKED ABOUT THE TIME OF HIS RETURN
 - A. He said that no man or angel knows when He will return [in Mark 13:32, Jesus included Himself].
 - B. However, the Father has appointed a day when Christ will judge the world (Acts 17:30-31).
 1. Christ will judge the world when He returns (2 Timothy 4:1).
 2. At that time everything will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10).
- II. (vs.37-39) JESUS COMPARED HIS RETURN TO THE FLOOD THAT OCCURRED IN NOAH'S DAY
 - A. (Genesis 6:3-7) God set a day when He would destroy man.
 - B. Noah and his family followed God's instructions and were prepared for the flood (Genesis 6:14-22; Hebrews 11:7).
 - C. Everyone else failed to prepare and consequently perished in the flood.
 - D. When the time of the Lord's return arrives, it will be too late to get prepared.
 - E. We must follow the example of preparation set by Noah.

III. (vs.40-41) WHEN JESUS RETURNS A SEPARATION WILL OCCUR

A. Jesus implied that His return will be a surprise.

1. If the time of the Lord's return could be determined,:
 - a. would people be working in the field?
 - b. would women be grinding at the mill?
2. (1 Thessalonians 5:2) The day of the Lord will come *"as a thief in the night."*

B. This separation that will take place will be for eternity (John 5:28-29).

IV. (vs.42-51) JESUS GAVE SOME INSTRUCTIONS THAT RELATE TO HIS RETURN

A. (vs.42a) He said, *"Watch."*

1. (vs.42b) He showed why we must watch for His return.
2. He illustrated the importance of watching for His return in vs.43.

B. (vs.44a) He also said, *"Be ready."*

1. (vs.44b) He showed why we must be ready for His return.
2. He illustrated the importance of being ready for His return in vs.45-51.
 - a. (vs.45-47) Wise servants who serve their Master faithfully will be blessed.
 - b. (vs.48-51) Evil servants who do not serve their Master faithfully will be punished.

Conclusion:

1. (vs.4-28) Jesus gave a number of signs that would indicate that the temple was about to be destroyed.
2. However, He gave no signs relating to His return (vs.36-51).
 - a. No one knows when that day will be.
 - b. We are to watch and be prepared for it.