

A More Detailed Study of Watching and Being Ready
(Matthew 24:36-51)

Introduction:

1. This morning our lesson was based on the Lord's instructions in vs.42-44 to watch and be ready for His return.
2. This evening we are making a more detailed study of the Lord's instructions in vs.36-51.

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 His Son 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.
- 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. In Matthew 24:1-3 the setting for the Lord's teaching in Matthew 24-25 is revealed.
2. In vs.4-35 Jesus talked about the time when the temple would be destroyed.
3. Jesus began talking about His return at vs.36.
 - a. No one knows when that day will be.
 - b. We are to watch and be prepared for it.