

The Lord Wants Us to Watch and Be Ready (Matthew 24:36-51)

Introduction:

1. Recently, we have studied Scriptures that teach us about 3 special events that will occur at that last great day, including:
 - a. the Lord's return [Jesus said, "*I will come again*" -- John 14:3]
 - b. the resurrection [Jesus said, "*all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth*" -- John 5:28-29]
 - c. the judgment [the apostle Paul wrote: "*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ*" -- 2 Corinthians 5:10].
2. In our lesson we are concentrating on the fact that "the Lord wants us to watch and be ready" [Jesus made this point very clear in these verses].

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 -- only the Father.
 - B. We learn from Acts 17:30-31 that the Father has "*appointed a day*" when He will judge the world through His Son.
- II. (vs.37-39) JESUS COMPARED HIS RETURN TO THE FLOOD
 - A. (Genesis 6:3-7) God set a day when He would destroy man.
 - B. Noah and his family followed God's instructions, and they were prepared for the flood (Genesis 6:14-22).
 - C. Everyone else failed to prepare and perished in the flood (Genesis 7:23).
 - 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 in advance,:
 - 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*" [unexpectedly].
 - B. According to John 5:28-29, this separation that will take place at the Lord's return will be for eternity.
- 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. At that last great day, the Lord will return, the resurrection will occur, and everyone will face the Lord in judgment.
2. "The Lord wants us to watch and be ready."