



Pastor Scott Archer 04.19.2015*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
www.ccclamesa.com

Ready, Or Not?
Matthew 24:36-51
(Preparedness Sunday)

Central Passage

Matthew 24:42–44 (NIV) — **42** “Therefore **keep watch**, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. **43** But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** **So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**

Central Thought: My decisions and behavior matter because of the promised return of Jesus.

Central Question: Am I prepared for and living in anticipation of the coming of the Lord?

End Time Thoughts from Jesus in Matthew

(See also, Mark 13:1-36; Luke 17:20-37)

- ❖ **The Event:** History will culminate with the parousia, the appearing of Jesus as king and judge of all.

Matthew 24:36–41 (NIV) — **36** “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at **the coming of the Son of Man**. **38** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** **and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.** That is how it will be at **the coming of the Son of Man**. **40** Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. **41** Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

Revelation 22:12–13 (NIV) — **12** “Look, **I am coming soon!** My reward is with me, and **I will give to each person according to what they have done.** **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

*Access today’s sermon notes via your smartphone or tablet with the **YouVersion** Bible app from LifeChurch.tv. CCChurch Guest Wi-Fi password: central8360church.

- ❖ **The Warning:** Keep watch – as Jesus may return at any time.

The Parable of the Foolish Virgins...Matthew 25:10–13 (NIV) — **10** “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. **11** “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ **12** “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ **13** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (See also, Matthew 25:1-13)

- ❖ **The Command:** Keep busy – being faithful with our God-given gifts and responsibilities.

Matthew 24:45–51 (NIV) — **45** “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? **46** **It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.** **47** Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. **48** But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ **49** and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. **50** The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **51** He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Parable of the Talents...Matthew 25:28–30 (ESV) — **28** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **29** **For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.** **30** And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’
(See also, Matthew 25:14-30)

Homework/Questions

- ❖ Read the “See also” passages above.
- ❖ Prayerfully consider your relationships, your expenditures and your calendar in light of the coming of the Lord.
- ❖ Have you discovered your place of meaningful investment within the kingdom of God?

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