

**MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM**

**Stay Awake, Be Ready,
Serve Faithfully**
Matthew 24:36-51

1

Introduction:

- **Context** - Ministry, arrival, rejection, crucifixion
- Literary/rhetorical type: **Prophetic Oracle**
- **“These things”** (24:4-35)
 - God’s judgment of Jerusalem by the Roman army in 70AD
 - Within that generation, with sequence and time markers
- **“That day”** (24:36-25:46)
 - God’s judgement of the world by the coming of Jesus at the end of the age (ch.13)
 - At an unknown time, with suddenness and surprise

2

Concerning That Day - v.36

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

On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ (Matthew 7:22-23)

3

Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town. (Matthew 10:15)

But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ...But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you." (Matthew 11:22...24)

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."(Matthew 12:36-37)

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. (Matthew 26:29)

4

As Were the Days of Noah - v.37-39

For as were the days of Noah,
so will be the coming [Gk. parousia —> 3, 27, 37, 39]
of the Son of Man.

For as in those days before the flood
they were eating and drinking,
marrying and giving in marriage,
until the day when Noah entered the ark,
and they were unaware until the flood came
and swept them all away,

so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

5

Stay Awake - v.41-42

Then two men will be in the field;
one will be taken and one left.
Two women will be grinding at the mill;
one will be taken and one left.

Therefore, stay awake,
for you do not know
on what day your Lord is coming.

6

Be Ready - v.43-44

But know this,
 that if the master of the house had known
 in what part of the night the thief was coming,
 he would have stayed awake
 and would not have let his house
 be broken into.

Therefore you also must be ready,
 for the Son of Man is coming
 at an hour you do not expect.

7

Serve Faithfully - v.45-47

Who then is the *faithful* and *wise* servant,
 whom his master has set over his household,
 to give them their food at the proper time?

Blessed is that servant whom his master
 will find so doing when he comes.

Truly, I say to you, he will
 set him over all his possessions.

8

The Wicked Servant - v.48-51

But if that wicked servant says to himself,
 'My master is *delayed*,
 and begins to beat his fellow servants
 and eats and drinks with drunkards,
 the master of that servant will come
 on a *day* when he does not expect him
 and at an *hour* he does not know
 and will cut him in pieces
 and put him with the hypocrites.

In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

9

Conclusions/Applications

- Beware speculations regarding **the coming of Jesus**
- Be prepared for **the judgement of Jesus**
- Be aware in **the service of Jesus**

The end of all things is at hand; 1 Peter 4:7-11

therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded
for the sake of your *prayers*.

Above all, keep *loving* one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins.

Show *hospitality* to one another without grumbling.

As each has received a gift, use it *to serve* one another,

as **good stewards** of God's varied grace:

whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God,

whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies

—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ:

To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
