

## **Expect to Be Surprised**

Matthew 24:36-51

- I. **THE DAYS OF NOAH** (37-39; Lk 21:34)—*Surprised and Unprepared*
  - A. **Eating and Drinking** (Phil 3:19; 1 Cor 10:31; Heb 12:16)—*physical appetite eclipsing spiritual concerns*
    1. **Worrying about Daily Bread** (Mat 6:31-32)—preoccupied with food for survival
    2. **Obsessed with Epicurean Gluttony** (Lk 12:19-20)—pursuing food as highest good/pleasure
  - B. **Marrying and Giving in Marriage** ()—*building our own kingdoms*
    1. **Family Matters**—making home, pleasing parents, producing children
    2. **Social Expectations**—establishing and advancing my place in the world
  - C. **Preoccupied with This World** (Phil 3:19)—*worldly life as usual, no thought for coming judgment*
    1. **Feed Your Soul**. (Isa 55:1-3; Mat 4:4; Jn 4:13-14, 32-34)
    2. **Devote yourself to building God's kingdom**. (Mat 6:33 & 19:12; 1 Cor 7:7, 29-38; Heb 13:4)
- II. **TWO MEN IN THE FIELD** (40-41)—*God Knows Who*
  - A. **Close Association**—coworkers, neighbors, friends, family members
  - B. **Normal Activities** (Jn 17: 15-16)—working, earning wages, homemaking, preparing food
  - C. **Final Separation** (Ps 1:5-6; 2 Pet 2:9)—those who belong to Jesus and those who don't
- III. **A BURGLAR'S BREAK-IN** (42-44; Prov 25:28; Joel 2:11-13)—*God Knows When*
  - A. **Real Danger**—*the eternal destiny of your soul is at stake*
  - B. **Be Prepared**—*take thought to protect your soul*

IV. **THE MASTER'S RETURN** (45-51)—*Be Faithful*

A. **The Absence of the Master**—*what to make of the delayed return of Christ*

1. Jesus is the **Master** of the Church.
2. We are all **servants** in His Household.
3. We are to **manage** His business until He returns.

B. **The Behavior of the Servants**—*what we're supposed to be doing*

1. **The Good Servant** (45-47)
  - a. **Faithful**—conducting the master's business with integrity, doing his job
  - b. **Wise**—understands his place, does what is right, and does his job well
2. **The Wicked Servant** (48-51)—selfish and unfaithful
  - a. **Abuse of Authority**—self-serving, mistreating the other servants
  - b. **Misuse of Resources**—embezzling the master's property and finances
  - c. **Irresponsible Behavior** (Prov 31:4-5)—intoxicated, neglecting his duties

C. **The Master's Return** (2 Pet 3:3-7)—*what we're waiting for*

1. Jesus **will** return.
2. Each of us will be called to **account**.
3. There will be **consequences**.
  - a. **Reward for the faithful** (46; 2 Tim 4:8)—promotion
  - b. **Punishment for the unfaithful** (51)—death/destruction

V. **WHY THE BIG SECRET?** (36)

A. **To Reveal Our Character**—Is our love real or are we self-serving?

B. **To Teach Us to Trust Him**—We desire to *control*, rely on our wisdom and strength.

C. **To Keep Us from Procrastinating**—*Right now* is important.