

READY OR NOT, HE'S COMING

Matthew 24:36-51

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: There's no question as to whether Jesus is coming back or not, the question is WHEN and nobody knows that except God, the Father. Are YOU ready? Are YOU prepared to meet God? Sooner or later every person will stand before God and whatever condition YOU are in at that time will be your eternal position, either saved or lost.

I. NO ONE KNOWS WHEN THE LORD WILL COME AGAIN (v36)

1. There have been many predictions of when the Lord will return and even times when people have gathered on mountain sides to await His coming, but they have all been wrong.
2. Not even the angels in heaven know when the Lord will come again.
3. Even Jesus when here on earth did not know when He would be returning.
4. It is enough just to know that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again and knowing that, everyone needs to be ready for Him to appear at any moment.

II. NOTHING WILL HAVE CHANGED IN THE WORLD WHEN THE LORD COMES BACK (vv37-39)

1. The world will be exactly as it has always been - lost, unsaved, just as it was when God sent the flood.
 - People absorbed in worldly things and pleasing things.
 - People totally oblivious to eternal, spiritual things.
 - Guilty of ignoring the witness and warnings of God's messengers and the Gospel message.
 - Proverbs 1:23-33
2. Mankind has been the same since Adam and Eve, more interested in human/personal things than the things of God.

III. WHEN THE LORD RETURNS THERE WILL BE A GREAT SEPARATION (vv40-41)

1. Everyone is together here on earth, the righteous with the unrighteous, the saved with the unsaved, the children of God and the children of Satan, all side by side.
2. When the Lord returns, there will be a great separation made, "in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet's sound, the two groups will be separated forever."
 - Husbands separated from their wives, (visa-versa),
 - Mothers from their children.
 - Brothers from sisters.
 - Pastors from some of their congregation.
 - Friends from friends.
3. There will be no time for repentance, no more opportunities for being saved. As one is on that great day, so will he/she be forever.
 - Believers caught up to heaven, glory, honor and eternal life.
 - Unbelievers damned, doomed to hell and eternal destruction.

- 2 Peter 1:4-11; James 2:14-26

4. Those who have followed the Lord Jesus during their earthly lives shall never be separated from Him.
 - Try to imagine the happiness of those who will be taken when the Lord does return.
 - Try to imagine the misery of those who will be left behind.

IV. IT IS THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ALWAYS BE READY FOR THE LORD'S RETURN (vv 42-44)

1. Jesus seldom mentioned His second coming without warning everyone to be watchful.
 - The Lord knows man's nature, how quickly one can forget the most serious things and how worldly minded everyone is by their human nature.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:6; Revelation 3:11
2. Believers would be wise to not be lazy or slow concerning matters of their soul and to be prepared to meet the Lord Jesus at any moment.
 - No one can even guess when Jesus will come, so everyone ought to be constantly watchful.
3. ARE YOU READY for the Lord to return?
 - Are you ready to meet God in judgment?
 - What an awesome thing that will be...soon to meet God in judgment.
 - There is only ONE way to be ready and that is to be in Christ.
 - United to Him by faith.
 - Washed in His blood.
 - Robed in HIS righteousness.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30

V. WHEN JESUS COMES BACK, THE FAITHFUL AND THE PRETENDERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED (vv45-51)

1. Jesus describes the faithful servant. (vv45-47)
 - His Character is "Faithful."
 - His Position is "Ruler over his household."
 - His Work is "to give them meat in due season."
 - His Reward - vv 46-47
2. There are rewards for faithful service here in this world and in the one to come.
 - Not rewards out of debt, but out of grace.
 - Not rewards according to rules of the law, but out of love.
 - The believer will be rewarded by God for as one's faithfulness honors God, God honors one's faithfulness.
3. Jesus describes the unfaithful servant. (vv48-51)
 - His Presumption - "My lord delays his return."
 - His Abuse - Hits his employees, threatens them, lives for his/her own pleasure rather than for God and the good of others.
 - His Surprise - v50
 - His Ruin - v51 - Pretends to be God's servant while all the time serving Satan and self.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every one needs to live expecting the Lord Jesus to return at any moment and determine not to be asleep or involved in worldly or selfish things in awaiting the Lord's return.
2. Every believer needs to live as God's children, servants, messengers, telling as many others as they can.
3. Each person needs to make sure that he/she is in Christ. (1 Corinthians 13:5)