

Sermon Reflections

Thinking about the Future (Part 4) • Matthew 24:36-51

Summary: Get ready right now because no one can predict when Christ and the end will come. Are you ready?

How to get ready for the end:

1. Be Alert: The end will come unexpectedly (vv. 36-41)

- We must be spiritually alert because the end will come unexpectedly. It's going to be secret, surprising, and sudden.
- How is it possible to say that Jesus does not know when? The coming will be surprising like the days of Noah.
- The imagery of two people going about their normal lives and one of them is suddenly swept away is very powerful. Read John 14:3. What does this verse say about the person that is swept away? 1 Thessalonians 4:7 also has a similar description of being taken to be with the Lord.

2. Be ready: The end will overcome the unprepared (vv. 42-44)

- Do not fall asleep spiritually in your life. Don't fall asleep at the wheel. One of the best ways to stay awake on the road is to take someone with you. Take someone with you along your spiritual journey — participate in the fellowship of the saints.
- How can you deter a thief from breaking into your house? How does this relate to being prepared for Jesus' coming?

3. Be faithful: The end result will be unforgiving (vv. 45-51)

- The servant in these passages exemplifies the faithful service that we should also practice in our spiritual lives. Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 that we should work faithfully every day.
- What becomes of the servant who wanders in disobedience when the master is away? How can we keep ourselves from wandering like this servant?