

Alert - Jesus Is Coming Back Soon

Matthew 24:36–51

Context Section

Matthew 24 is part of Jesus' teaching on the Mount of Olives. His disciples asked about the end, and Jesus answered by reminding them that no one knows the day or hour of His return. Instead of giving them a date, Jesus gave them a command: Be ready.

This passage is not meant to make you panic. It is meant to wake you up. Jesus is coming back, and because He is coming back, your life today matters.

Explore the Text: Understanding Key Words

Day and Hour — The exact timing of Jesus' return is hidden from us but known to the Father.

Stay Awake — To live spiritually alert, not careless or distracted.

Ready — To live in faith, obedience, and surrender to Jesus now.

Faithful Servant — Someone who keeps obeying while waiting for the Master.

Delayed — The dangerous thought that you have plenty of time to get serious with God later.

Day 1 - Wake Up to What Matters - Matthew 24:36–41

Jesus says His return will be sudden, like the days of Noah. People were eating, drinking, marrying, and planning life as usual. None of those things were wrong, but they became dangerous because people lived with no

concern for God's warning. You can do the same today. You can fill your calendar, scroll your phone, chase your goals, and assume tomorrow will always come. But Jesus lovingly wakes you up. He is not trying to scare you into panic; He is calling you into spiritual awareness. The point is not to stop living. The point is to stop living asleep. Every ordinary day is an opportunity to walk with God, love people, confess sin, and trust Christ more deeply. Jesus is coming back, and that truth should shape how you live before He comes. Today is not just another day. It is a gift to be ready. Right now too.

- **Application Question:** What part of your life has become so ordinary that you have stopped asking whether it honors Jesus?
- **Challenge:** This week, choose one daily habit and intentionally use it as a reminder to pray, "Jesus, help me live ready today."

Day 2 - Stay Awake - Matthew 24:42-44

Jesus says, "Stay awake," because you do not know the day your Lord is coming. Readiness is not about predicting dates, watching headlines with fear, or trying to figure out what no one can know. Readiness is about living today like Jesus could return at any moment. That means your private life matters. Your words matter. Your priorities matter. The way you treat people when no one applauds matters. If you knew Jesus was returning tonight, some things would suddenly seem less important, and other things would become urgent. But Jesus does not tell you the hour because He wants your whole life, not just your last-minute attention. Staying awake means staying close. It means listening to His Word, responding to His Spirit, and refusing to drift spiritually. You do not need to know when Jesus is coming. You need to know that you are walking with Him today faithfully.

- **Application Question:** What would change in your attitude, habits, or relationships if you truly lived like Jesus could return at any moment?
- **Challenge:** Set aside ten minutes each day this week to read Scripture without rushing and ask God to keep your heart awake.

Day 3 - Be Faithful Where You Are - Matthew 24:45–47

Jesus describes a faithful servant who keeps doing what the master gave him to do. That picture matters because waiting for Jesus is not passive. You are not called to sit around staring at the sky. You are called to be faithful with what is in your hands. Your family, your church, your friendships, your work, your school, your influence, and your time are all places where you can serve the Lord. Faithfulness is often ordinary before it is noticeable. It looks like showing up, forgiving again, praying when you feel tired, choosing honesty, encouraging someone, and obeying God in small decisions. Jesus sees it all. The world may celebrate talent, attention, and success, but Jesus blesses faithfulness. When He returns, the question will not be, “Were you impressive?” The question will be, “Were you faithful?” Today, serve well where God has placed you. Even in the unseen places too.

- **Application Question:** What responsibility has God placed in your life right now that you need to treat as an act of worship?
- **Challenge:** Pick one place where you have been tempted to coast and choose one faithful step of obedience this week.

Day 4 - Do Not Wait Until Later - Matthew 24:48–50

Jesus gives a serious warning about the wicked servant who says in his heart, “My master is delayed.” The danger begins privately before it shows publicly. When you start believing there is plenty of time, sin becomes easier to excuse. You may think, “I can get serious later. I can repent later. I can forgive later. I can obey later.” But delayed obedience is still disobedience. The servant’s problem was not simply bad behavior; it was a wrong view of the master. He lived as if accountability would never come. Jesus loves you too much to let you sleep through that warning. Grace is not permission to drift. Patience is not proof that judgment will never come. The return of Jesus reminds you that your life is accountable to Him. Do not wait for a better season to surrender. The best time to come back to Jesus is today now.

- **Application Question:** Where have you been telling yourself “later” when Jesus is calling you to obey now?
- **Challenge:** Confess one area of delayed obedience to God this week and take one clear step toward surrender.

Day 5 - Ready for the King - Matthew 24:51

Matthew 24 ends with a sobering picture of judgment. Jesus is not being harsh; He is being honest. His return will bring joy for those who belong to Him, but it will bring separation for those who only pretended, delayed, or rejected Him. That truth should make you humble, not proud. It should move you to examine your heart and cling to the gospel. You are not made ready for Jesus by trying harder, acting religious, or looking spiritual around others. You are made ready by trusting the One who died for your sin and rose again. Jesus came first as Savior, and He will come again as King. Today, the door of grace is open. You can confess sin, turn from pretending, and trust Him fully. And if you already belong to Christ, live with urgency. Someone near you needs to know the King is coming very soon today.

- **Application Question:** How does the return of Jesus reveal what you are trusting in most deeply?
- **Challenge:** Share one gospel-centered encouragement with someone this week and pray for them to be ready for Jesus.