



Lenten Devotion-February 21, 2024

Submitted by the Forever Young Bible Study

Matthew 24: 36-51

36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, [a] but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so

when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

#### Devotion

These verses in Matthew are used as specific warnings which we know have been ignored by many people. Nobody but God the Father will know the exact time that He will return to earth. We will all be caught by surprise by the appearance of the signs just like the men and women who were swept away in Noah's flood. These verses are telling us that as followers of Jesus Christ we must live in constant readiness of His return. Jesus uses a parable to explain this, he describes the choices of two servants while their master was away. One who was faithful and wise and the other wicked. When the master returned the faithful servant was rewarded and the wicked one was cut to pieces. As followers of Christ we must stay ready for His return by being faithful and obedient to the word.

#### Prayer

Lord, we pray that we will live in constant readiness for your return. Help us to not stray into wicked temptations but to live faithful and wise, making choices that will build your Kingdom up and bring others closer to you so that they may live in constant readiness as well as we wait for the sweet return of our Savior. It is in your name that we pray, Amen.