

## Were You There Lenten Devotion

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Matthew 24:36-51

Scripture:

Matthew 24:26-51

### No One Knows That Day and Hour

36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[a]</sup> but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant,<sup>[b]</sup> whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find doing so when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants<sup>[c]</sup> and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Devotion:

As Jesus looks ahead to his return, he makes the amazingly strong statement in verse 36, that should forever have prevented anyone from predicting when he was going to return. What does Jesus mean when he says that even the Son does not know the day and hour? Apart from underlining the futility of human prediction—which it surely does—how can it be

possible that God the Son has any area of knowledge that is lacking (for part of the definition of God is that he is omniscient)?

We will leave the imponderables to the commentaries, but suffice it to say at this point that God the Son as fully God knew all, but here he showed his submission to the Father's will as an example to us of humility. However you understand the divinity and humanity of the Son, though, both fully God and fully man, we are met with not just a mystery here, but also a plain teaching. Jesus' return will come unexpectedly. As in the days of Noah the flood came, like a thief coming in the night. The only sensible response, then, is to be always ready (24:44).

Prayer:

Lord, you are faithful and holy. Thank you for your never-ending love and for the gift of forgiveness of my sins. Help me to live my life daily as faithful to you as you are to all. In your name I pray, Amen.

