



“End Times Living”

Matthew 24:42–51

The Prophecy of the King

Introduction:

- 1 John 2:18 – “Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”
- Matthew 24:3 – “...what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”
- Matthew 24:42–51 – “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’ and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

I. End Times Commands

End Times Command #1: Be Alert (Matthew 24:42)

- Matthew 24:42 – “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”
(Greek: *gregoreo* – being extremely watchful.) (cf. Mark 13:37; Luke 21:36; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 1 Peter 5:8)
- Matthew 24:42 – “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”
- Matthew 25:13 – “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”

End Times Command #2: Be Sure (Matthew 24:43)

- Matthew 24:43 – “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.” (Greek: *ginosko* –to be intimately acquainted, to be certain.)
- Luke 10:11 – “...be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.”
- Ephesians 5:11–14 – “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, ‘Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’”

End Times Command #3: Be Ready (Matthew 24:44)

- Matthew 24:44 – “For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.” (Greek: *hetoimos* – to be prepared. To fit well.)
- First Advent: Matthew 3:3 – “Make ready the way of the Lord...”
- Second Advent: Luke 12:40 – “You too, be ready (i.e., be prepared); for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.” (cf. Revelation 19:7)

Ready. Aim. Fire.

Ready. Set. Go.

Ready. Willing. Able.

- Matthew 24:44 – “For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”
- 1 Peter 3:15 – “...always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you...”

II. End Times Callings (Matthew 24:45)

- Matthew 24:45 – “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?”

End Times Calling #1: Be Faithful (Matthew 24:45)

- Matthew 24:45 – “Who then is the faithful...” (cf. Luke 16:10; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Revelation 2:10)

End Times Calling #2: Be Sensible (Matthew 24:45)

- Matthew 24:25 – “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave...” (Greek: *phronimos* – to be wise, prudent, and especially practical.)

Regarding Prophetic Guesswork...

End Times Calling #3: Be Busy (Matthew 24:45)

- Matthew 24:25 – “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:11 – “For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.”

“undisciplined” – Greek: *ataktos* – to be out of step, unruly (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
“busybodies” – Greek: *periergazomai* – to bustle about uselessly, to busy oneself in useless matters.

III. End Times Consequences (for the Faithful) (Matthew 24:46–47)

End Times Consequence #1: We Will Be Blessed (Matthew 24:46)

- Matthew 24:46 – “Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 – “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

End Times Consequence #2: We Will Be Found Faithful (Matthew 24:46)

- Matthew 24:46 – “Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.”

End Times Consequence #3: We Will Be Entrusted With Greater Responsibilities (Matthew 24:47)

- Matthew 24:47 – “Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”
- Matthew 25:21 – “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”

IV. End Times Cautions (Matthew 24:48–49)

End Times Caution #1: Don’t Be Complacent (Matthew 24:48)

- Matthew 25:48 – “But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time...’

End Times Caution #2: Don’t Be Abusive (Matthew 24:49)

“...begins to beat his fellow slaves...” (Matthew 24:49)

End Times Caution #3: Don’t Be Excessive (Matthew 24:49)

“...eat and drink with drunkards...” (Matthew 24:49)

- Luke 12:19 – “And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.’”
- Luke 12:20 – “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’”

V. End Times Consequences (for the Unfaithful) (Matthew 24:50–51)

End Times Consequence #1: They Will Be Taken By Surprise (Matthew 24:50)

- Matthew 24:50 – “...the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know...”

End Times Consequence #2: They Will Be Punished (Matthew 24:50–51)

- Matthew 24:50–51 – “...the master of that [unfaithful] slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know and will cut him in pieces.....”

End Times Consequence #3: They Will Experience Eternal Torment (Matthew 24:51)

- Matthew 24:51 – “...assign him [i.e. the unfaithful servant] a place with the hypocrites...”
- Matthew 25:51 – “...He will assign him a place with the hypocrites...”

- Matthew 25:51 – “...in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth...”

“place” – Greek: *meros* – region, district, a place of destiny, an assigned place. (cf. Luke 11:36 “a dark part.”)

- Matthew 25:51 – “...in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

• Matthew 25:30 – “Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (gnashing – Greek: *brugmos* – a picture of extreme anguish and utter despair (e.g., snarling and growling.) (cf. Revelation 7:17; 21:4)

• Matthew 10:33 – “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”

Concluding Thoughts:

- **The Moral of the Story:**

- **The Big Question:** (cf. Luke 12:41)

- **A Quick Review:**

- Three end times commands.
- Three end times callings.
- Three end times consequences (for the faithful).
- Three end times cautions for all of us.
- Three end times consequences for the unfaithful who choose to ignore Christ.

Live as if Jesus is coming back today.

Plan as if Jesus is coming soon.

Be patient if Jesus is coming back later than we think.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review the end times commands, callings, consequences (for the faithful), cautions, consequences (for the unfaithful).

a. Which of these most need to improve in your life?

b. Which of these most need to be shared with your unbelieving family and friends?

2. What does the parable of the Master and the Slave teach us about rewards and punishment when Jesus comes back?

3. What did you get most out of this message?