

Parables of Jesus part 9 “The End Times? Tempering the Crazyies...”

Matthew 24:36

Because we cannot know the timing of the end, we should not spend our time trying to predict it.

Matthew 24:42

*Watch therefore, give strict attention, **be cautious and active**, for you do not know what kind of day, whether a near or remote one, your Lord is coming. Matthew 24:42 The Amplified Version*

Keeping watch or awake, does not mean to try and correlate the daily news with passages in scriptures, it does mean be ready, by being cautious and active.

Three concerns that Jesus mentions in his message are deception, fear, and falling away.

Matthew 23 (Just this on the slide not all the verses!)

Matthew 7:22-23

Deception

Matthew 24 (Just this on the slide not all the verses!)

Matthew 24:1

Trying to distract him maybe?!

“Routine History” is how Eugene Peterson titled this chapter in Matthew in his excellent Message version of the Scripture.

All the signs have been there in the world in each and every generation:

- Wars and rumors of wars
- Famine and disease
- Earthquakes and natural disasters

Fear and falling away

Matthew 24:4-8

Matthew 24:34

Matthew 24:36

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The Parable of the Faithful servant

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

The Parable of Talents

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats

And all four are given after the instruction to be alert, keep watch, being cautious and active. All four are examples of what it means to overcome deception, fear, and falling away with discernment, love and faithfulness.

Matthew 24:45-47

Faithful in caring for others

Matthew 25:13

Be faithful buy having a long-term approach

Matthew 25:29

This is about spiritual responsiveness, emphasizing that the wise use their God given abilities in alignment with God's mission. NIV Application Commentary, Michael Wilkins

Matthew 25:34-40

We see Jesus in the face of the poor – Mother Theresa

Love and faithfulness

Matthew 5:5

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Matthew 25:41-46

Because we cannot know the timing of the end, we should not spend our time trying to predict it. Instead, we ought to devote ourselves to living out lives of love others. Using the abilities, gifts and blessings that we have been blessed and gifted with by God, to advance his Kingdom values here on earth. To not be fearful, to not give up hope, but to persevere, as our King Jesus teaches us.

If you knew Jesus was coming back later today, what would you do?