



Sermon Series: Mysteries: The Greatest Stories Jesus Told, part 6

Sermon Title: Be Ready

Speaker/ Date: Scott McCrea, October 11, 2020

Matthew 25:1-13

In Matthew 25, Jesus addressed the timing of his return, and gave a series of parables where He emphasized how important it is to be ready when He returns.

Big Idea: Be ready for when Jesus returns

3 ways to be ready when Jesus returns

1. Stay Alert

When Jesus started answering His disciples questions in this final teaching, He started by saying ⁴“See that no one leads you astray. ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. Matthew 24:4-5

The apostle Paul writes on this in **2 Timothy 4:3-5**

They are saying STAY ALERT –Don’t be led astray by false teachers – they will pull you off track if you let them, and fill your mind with a bunch of lies about who God is.

Almost every decade, some modern day false prophet comes along who claims to have figured out when Jesus will return.

This is why it’s so important to know the scriptures – so you’re not fooled. Jesus himself said over and over that no one knows the exact time of His return.

Matthew 24: 42, Matthew 24:44, Matthew 25:13, Matthew 24:36

The most sure-fire way to defend against false teachers is to stay alert and study the scriptures, so you know what the bible says and means. Be like the Bereans. **Acts 17:11**

2. Love People

Jesus gave his followers a command to love others. **John 13:34-35**

In **Matthew 5:43,44** Jesus said to love your enemies

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ,

Jesus takes note of how you treat others. As a follower of Christ, when you love others, you demonstrate your faithfulness to God by performing acts of kindness.

When Jesus returns, let Him find you doing what He commanded you to do - showing love to a lost and fallen world.

3. Know Jesus

If you truly know Jesus – that is, if you have put your faith in Him alone for your salvation, then you will never hear the words from Jesus, “I never knew you.”

We shouldn’t live our Christian lives wondering and worrying each day whether or not we are truly saved. The apostle Peter tells us to make certain that you know you are saved. **2 Peter 1:10**

Salvation is by Grace alone – not works **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Jesus is the only way to heaven **John 14:6 ESV**

Here is what you must believe to make sure you know Jesus.

Admit that you are a sinner, and know that because of that sin, you are separated from God, who is Holy and perfect.

Understand that God demands a payment for that sin, that payment is eternal death. God sent His son to earth to live the perfect life that you couldn’t live, and to die on a cross taking the punishment that you deserved. Three days later, God raised Him from the dead, showing that the payment for our debt was acceptable.

When you put your trust in Jesus alone for your salvation, Jesus perfect righteousness is transferred to you. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

The assurance of your salvation is **NOT IN EXTERNAL EVIDENCES** that you see in your life; it is in the unshakable truth of God’s word.

The clock is ticking, and you will meet Jesus soon enough –make sure you are ready to do that by staying alert, Loving others, and Knowing Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **To you, what does it mean for you to be ready for Christ's return?**
- **Have you ever missed out on an opportunity you felt came from God because you weren't quite ready?**
- **What is your biggest struggle when it comes to loving people?**
- **How do you discern whether someone who quotes and teaches scripture is a false teacher or not?**
- **Have you ever followed a false teacher? Were there any negative consequences?**
- **How would you counsel someone who is currently listening to a teacher that is dangerously close to being a false teacher, but hasn't quite crossed that line yet?**