

## **5-Day Devotional: Living Ready**

### **Day 1: Preparation Reveals Our Beliefs**

Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

Devotional: We prepare for countless uncertainties—weather events, vacations, financial emergencies—yet often neglect preparing for the certainty of Christ's return. Jesus doesn't call us to predict when He'll come, but to be prepared all the time. Our preparation reveals what we truly believe. When we stock pantries for storms but neglect our spiritual readiness, we expose a gap between what we profess and how we live. Today, ask yourself: Does my daily life reflect someone expecting their King's return? Preparation isn't about fear or abandoning responsibilities; it's about living with intentional faithfulness. Let your readiness be demonstrated through loving others well, forgiving quickly, and pursuing holiness—not halfway, but wholeheartedly.

### **Day 2: Readiness Is Not Fear**

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Devotional: Paul reminds us that preparation for Christ's return isn't about panic or fear—it's about faith. We're not called to become the "bullhorn person" predicting dates or living strangely detached from reality. Instead, we're called to "keep awake and be sober," living faithfully in every season. Biblical readiness means continuing your work, loving your family, serving your community—all while maintaining an eternal perspective. It's not quitting your job to stare at the sky; it's being found faithful when He appears. The call is simple: encourage one another, build each other up, and live wholly devoted to Christ. Let faith, not fear, fuel your preparation. Be the person who lives so consistently that Christ's return would simply be the continuation of your faithful walk.

### **Day 3: Making Heaven Crowded**

Reading: Luke 12:35-40

Devotional: Jesus tells us to be like servants waiting for their master's return—alert, ready, and actively engaged. But readiness isn't just personal; it's missional. The question echoes: "Make heaven crowded." How many people will join us in eternity because we were prepared and helped prepare them? Being ready means loving people well, sharing the gospel, and living as light in darkness. We spend tremendous energy preparing for temporary things—why not invest equally in the one moment eternity hinges on? Your preparation should overflow into invitation. Join a community group. Build others up. Share your faith. Live so that when Jesus returns, He finds you not just ready yourself, but actively helping others get ready too. Eternal preparation has eternal impact.

#### **Day 4: The Faithfulness God Seeks**

Reading: Luke 19:11-27

Devotional: In this parable, Jesus reveals what He's looking for when He returns: not spectacular achievements, but simple faithfulness. The servants who invested what they were given—who remained consistent when no one was watching—received commendation. God doesn't measure success by worldly standards of productivity or impressiveness. He looks for obedience in the ordinary. Are you faithful with what He's given you? Your relationships, resources, time, and talents are all investments for His kingdom. Readiness means stewarding these gifts wisely, not burying them in comfort or complacency. When Christ returns, He won't ask how busy you were; He'll ask how obedient you were. Choose today to be faithful in small things, knowing that faithfulness in the unseen prepares you for eternity in His presence.

#### **Day 5: Living Wholly, Not Halfway**

Reading: Revelation 3:14-22

Devotional: Jesus confronts the Laodicean church for being lukewarm—neither hot nor cold. Halfhearted faith is repulsive to Him. As we pursue readiness for His return, we must examine our hearts: Are we pursuing Jesus wholeheartedly or just going through religious motions? Preparation for eternity demands wholehearted devotion. It means forgiving completely, loving sacrificially,

serving consistently, and living with eternity in view every single day. Comfort is the enemy of preparation. When we get too comfortable, we stop preparing. But Jesus stands at the door and knocks, inviting us into intimate, zealous relationship with Him. Open the door. Pursue Him with everything you have. Let this be the year you move from halfway commitment to wholehearted pursuit. When He returns, may He find you fully alive, fully devoted, and fully ready.

## Reflection Questions

How does the way we prepare for uncertain events like snowstorms compare to how we prepare for the certain return of Jesus Christ?

What does our level of preparation for Christ's return reveal about what we actually believe about His second coming?

In what ways have you allowed comfort and routine to keep you from spiritually preparing for eternity?

How can we distinguish between fear-based panic about end times and faith-based readiness for Christ's return?

What does it mean practically to be found faithful rather than just busy when Jesus returns?

How does building up and encouraging other believers help us prepare for Christ's return rather than just focusing on our own readiness?

Why do you think we often spend more time and energy preparing for things that might not happen than for the one event we know is certain?

What would change in your daily life if you truly lived with the expectation that Jesus could return at any moment?

How does the call to make heaven crowded challenge your current approach to relationships and evangelism?

In what specific ways can community groups help believers stay spiritually prepared and accountable as we await Christ's return?