

Command #20: Be ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:36-25:13 // Jerry Barber

Condensed Version

Read Matthew 24:36-25:13 and discuss these questions with your disciple(s):

1. In this passage, what themes are repeated multiple times?
2. Re-read this passage with one thought on your mind: What truths about Jesus Christ are brought out in this passage that cause you to worship him? Try to find, write down, and meditate on everything you can find about Christ that is admirable and praiseworthy.
3. As you think about this passage, ask God to bring to your mind some practical ways that you can be more ready for Christ's return.

Study: (answers follow below)

1. Meditate on Matthew 24:36-25:13 and make a few observations about the passage.
2. In this passage, what themes are repeated multiple times?
3. As you think about how the passage is structured, how does the truth of 24:36 impact everything else that follows, all the way to the end of chapter 25?
4. In 24:37-44, what three examples does Jesus give of the need to watch?
5. How does Jesus stress both rewards and judgment in 24:45-51?
6. How does Jesus stress both rewards and judgment in 25:1-13?
7. Think about this passage and ask God to bring to your mind some practical ways that you can be more ready for Christ's return. Write them down here.

Answers:

1. Answers will vary.
2. Watch, be on the alert, be ready for Christ's return, judgment and reward
3. The basic foundational truth is that nobody knows when the Son of God is returning to earth, only God the Father. Because this is the case, we need to watch and be ready, which Jesus states in 24:42. That leads into the rest of the material, as several parables are given that show the importance of proper conduct while he is away (45-51), the need for being prepared and the judgment that will happen to those who are not (25:1-13), how we should be good stewards while he is away (25:14-30), and help the "least of these" (25:31-46). All of it grows out of the truth of 24:36.
4. The three are:

- a. Days of Noah (37-39)
 - b. One taken, one left (40-42)
 - c. Surprise nighttime visitor (the thief) (43-44)
5. Rewards: The faithful servant will be blessed and put in charge of all the master's possessions (46-47); punishment: the wicked servant will be punished (50-51).
6. Rewards: The faithful bridesmaids got to join the groom in the wedding feast (10); punishment: the unfaithful, unprepared bridesmaids were rejected (12).
7. Answers will vary.

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Worship:

Re-read this passage with one thought on your mind: What truths about Jesus Christ are brought out in this passage that cause you to worship him? Try to find, write down, and meditate on everything you can find about Christ that is admirable and praiseworthy.

Obey:

Consider what you need to know and do in order to put this command into practice. There are at least two ways to do this, listed below. Add any others that are helpful to you.

(1) Invite accountability so you don't get distracted with the cares and routines of ordinary life and you end up like those in the days of Noah.

(2) Be faithful to what God has put in front of you. That's the essence of being a good steward.

Train:

I think accountability is the key. Living with God's priorities in a "ready" state is hard enough, but especially when we go at it alone. Help your emerging disciples by offering loving accountability together.