



## Watch and Prepare

**Background** – This series is designed to give encouragement and hope about the end times and the return of Christ.

**Key Verse** - [Matthew 24:42](#)

**Core Passage:** [Matthew 24:36-51](#)

**Take Away** - Jesus loves us and doesn't want us to fear His return. So, keep watch and be prepared.

**Sermon Guide:**

- I. What do you see when you read the words of Jesus concerning the end times?
  - 1) Jesus will return, but no one knows the time.  
[Matthew 24:36, Philippians 2:6-8](#)
  - 2) The return of Jesus will be sudden, visible, and final.  
[Matthew 24:37-41, Genesis 6:11-12](#)
  - 3) Jesus wants us to watch and be prepared for His return.  
[Matthew 24:42-51, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6](#)
  
- II. **How can we apply God's Word to our lives?**
  - 1) Life is not a game and it does not last forever. Are you in or are you out?
  - 2) Be faithful and do things that Jesus would be proud of.

### III. Family/Small Group Discussion

- 1) Pray – That the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 and Revelation will encourage and instruct our hearts.
- 2) Briefly review the sermon outline. Have people read aloud a few of the scriptures covered and explain why they are important and meaningful.
- 3) Discuss together:
  1. In this passage of Matthew, Jesus continued the theme of comparison between those who are true believers and those who are not. Compare and contrast the two groups of people detailed in [verses 36-41](#).
  2. Verse 42 begins with the important word “therefore.” In [verses 42-44](#), what are we supposed to learn from their examples? What are we commanded to do?
  3. Now compare and contrast the two groups of people detailed in [verses 45-51](#). What are we supposed to learn from their examples?
  4. As children of God we are called to be ready, watchful, faithful, wise, compassionate, and good stewards as we live eagerly for the return of Christ. In the waiting, what hinders you today from living as a “faithful and wise servant” in light of His future return?
  5. What do you need to lay aside and/or take up so that you can be ready and receive the commendation of Christ, “Well done, good and faithful servant” ([Matthew 25:21](#))?