



# The Life of Jesus (87)

Keep Watch!



Matthew 24:36-44

## #1 Keep Watch

One of the important characteristics of the return of Christ is that no one knows when it will happen.

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. **But about that day or hour no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, **but only the Father**” (Mt 24:35-36)

As Christians, we know for certain that there will come a day when Jesus returns because Jesus Himself promised so when He ascended to heaven, and the promise is repeatedly confirmed by many other Bible passages. His return was affirmed by angels as well.

“**This same Jesus**, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven**” (Acts 1:11)



## #2 Keep Watch

This promise of the return of Christ is at the center of the Christian life. Jesus will surely come back the way He ascended to heaven, which gives us hope for the future and strength to overcome all the circumstances we face today.

But, even though we are certain of the fact that Jesus is coming back, we don't know the exact day or time of His return—only God knows.

This characteristic of the last day is linked to the second instruction. **We should continue to stay spiritually awake because we don't know when our Lord will come.**

### #3 The Days of Noah

To help us better understand what being spiritually alert looks like, Jesus compares His coming to what happened in Noah's time.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Mt 24:37-39)

When “The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time” (Gen 6:5), “[He] regretted that he had made human beings on the earth…” (Gen 6:6), and made a decision to “wipe from the face of the earth the human race” (Gen 6:7).

## #4 The Days of Noah

But one man named Noah found grace in God's sight because he walked with God.

God commanded Noah to build a very large ark. It wasn't an easy task at all and it seemed crazy to other people, but Noah's faith moved him to obey God.

Noah was likely very famous at that time in a bad way because of what he was doing. Because the ark was so huge, it must have taken decades to finish the work. No one could understand why Noah was building the ark.

Some might have come to him and asked him why he was doing that. And Noah likely explained what God had told him to do and why.

## #5 The Days of Noah

But it seems that no one took him seriously. No one returned to their Creator even when they saw the huge ark being built for the imminent judgment.



Rather, they kept on doing what they did, eating, drinking, and marrying.

## #7 The Days of Noah

The problem was not that they were doing such daily, ordinary things. What Jesus is pointing out, is that they did those things without trying to know God's will and put it first.

They knew nothing about what would happen not because they weren't told about it but because they weren't really interested in it even though they saw the huge ark being built right in front of their eyes.

It's important for us to do what we do now. We need to eat, drink, marry, buy things, study, work, make money, and more. But we shouldn't let any of them come before God's will for us. As Christians, we shouldn't put anything before Him. We shouldn't love anything more than God.

So, while doing what we need to do in the world, we should make every effort to stay spiritually awake in God's will.

## #8 The Days of Noah

In Noah's time, people were indifferent to God's will, and their indifference led to their ignorance.

In a time for repenting and praying they were absorbed in eating, drinking, and marrying. Instead of returning to God and repenting of their sins, they chose to enjoy things of the world and ended up being taken away by the flood.

Now we see the same thing happening. Not many people are interested in knowing God's will. In fact, even many Christians are not devoted to knowing His will. Rather, they put their own interests before God's will, which makes them not only indifferent but ignorant to what's coming soon—the Lord's return and God's judgment.

What we need to know is that even the ordinary, daily things we do in our lives can go against God's will if we do them apart from Him.



## #9 The Days of Noah

But if we're doing them in God's will, God will use everything we do, even very small things, for His own glory.

“Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do it all for the glory of God.**” (1 Cor. 10:31)

As Christians, we should always check whether or not things we normally do are related to God's will. If they have nothing to do with God's will, they will make us indifferent and ignorant to it, which will end up leading to eternal destruction.

we should make every effort to stay spiritually awake in everything we do so that we may prepare for the day.

## #10 Stay Spiritually Awake

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is” (Eph 5:15–17)

This passage does a great job explaining what it means for us to stay awake spiritually. It is to live wisely, standing firmly in God’s word and being guided by the Holy Spirit.

We should use every moment given by God to glorify Him. We should make every effort to know what pleases the Lord and understand what His will is for us so that our lives can be always aligned with it.

Being spiritually awake also means that we always walk in light with Jesus Christ and remain faithful to Him. Those who live that kind of life won’t be embarrassed when the Lord returns at an unexpected time.

“In just a little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay.” (Heb 10:37) “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20)

## Memory Verses

“This same Jesus... will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11) (1)

“About that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mt 24:36) (1)

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man... People were eating and drinking, marrying.. and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away” (Mt 24:37-39) (2)

“Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (1 Cor. 10:31) (1)

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is” (Eph 5:15-17) (2)

## Reflection Questions

1) What do you think it means for you to be spiritually awake and why do you think it is important in Christian life? What are some practical things you can do this week to stay spiritually awake?