

Advent: A Season of Expectation
Looking Forward with Expectation
Matthew 24:32-44

We have all heard the phrase, “sleep with one eye open.” We generally understand it to mean to sleep lightly or to be aware of your surroundings at all times, even when you are sleepy. This posture is to be that of the follower of Jesus whose citizenship is in heaven but whose residence is still here on earth. We are called to live out our faith obediently each and every day in every aspect of life, while also expectantly keeping one eye open to the return of Jesus.

1. Jesus is coming; stand firm in the promise.

2. Jesus is coming; don't be surprised.

3. Jesus is coming; watch and be ready.

We must live with a sense of holy expectancy realizing that there has never been a greater need or opportunity to share the gospel. We see in this passage a warning of judgment, unpredictability, and preoccupation with worldly concerns, but it ends with a powerful admonition: Be ready. For the believer, the greatest preparation we could ever make would be to live godly lives, and let the world know the power of the gospel.

Reflection

Set aside some time this week to read all of Matthew 24 and meditate on the things Jesus says about His return. Try not to think about what other people have said that Jesus said, just what Jesus said. Consider how the urgency of Jesus' warning should motivate your desire to obey the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission. What steps will you take in 2025 to demonstrate that desire? Consider Jesus' words in John 14:1-3. Do you find comfort and peace in His words? Is there anything else that Jesus would need to say to help rid you of any anxiety about 2025 that you might be harboring? How glad does it make you to know that Jesus is preparing a place for you?