

The Faithful Head of the Household

Matthew 24:42-51

- 42 *“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.*
- 43 *“But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.*
- 44 *“For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.*

Right up front, don't miss the three imperatives

Be alert... Be sure... Be ready...

42 *“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.*

We have just been told that no one knows except God Himself (all three members of the Godhead).

The Greek conjunction, *therefore*,

is a conjunction of warning, coming off the fact that one will be taken and one remains...

Therefore, think about it,

do you want to be the one taken up in judgment of fire?

Or do you want to be the one left here

to go into the wonderful Millennium

where **all** the unconditional covenants to Israel will be fulfilled?

It is up to you!

Therefore now the warning *be on the alert*

this is the present imperative of the verb meaning to be aroused,

to refrain from, sleep, stay awake, stay alert!

The present imperative means to be continually alert!

This is a warning as to the gospel.

Principle:

Do not be one of those who gets caught up
in **eating** and **drinking** and **marrying**;

That is gets caught up in
the **Details Of Life**
and **Not Pay Attention To The Gospel**,
And be one of those taken away in judgment.

Pay attention to the gospel and believe in the soon Second coming of the Messiah.

And you better be alerted to the gospel for you are dealing with days here at nearing of the end of The Tribulation.

He's at the door.

Oh, people, even now in these worldwide trying days, it is so important for believers to be constantly on spiritual alert. Christians of all people should realize the perilous times in which we live.

Your **spiritual condition** is much more important than your physical condition.

Your **spiritual preparedness** is much more important than your physical preparedness.

Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. [There are many things that we are exhorted to know from Scripture, but there are things that we do not know and cannot know. And this is true even here in the Church Age, but here it is at the immediate coming of JESUS CHRIST.

Similar yet different

Many bible scholars have difficulty pin pointing days prior to the rapture and days prior to the Second Coming. One reason for this confusion is that these two events are similar yet different. Something is going to happen to every believer and to every unbeliever. In the rapture every believer will be

removed and every unbeliever will remain here on earth; while in the Second coming it will be just the opposite, every believer will remain and every unbeliever will be removed.

They both involve the sounding of a trumpet, while at the Second Advent it will be the sounding of the **great trumpet** (*verse 31*).

There are many Greek New Testament terms that are used to describe **both** the **Rapture of the Church** *and* for the **Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST**, a careful study of the context will determine which of these two events is being described.

No one knows when either of these historical events will take place. It is because of their similarities that cause confusion, but one must pay attention to where they differ to determine which is being described.

⁴³ *“But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.*

Here we come to the second present *imperative*

be sure of this.

Present imperative of the Greek verb basically meaning **to know**.

But, of course, here it means more than just to know something.

Various translators have tried to convey what is behind this word in this context:

know this, understand this, be sure of this, realize this, be assured of this.

Any of these is a fair rendering of both the word and context.

Be sure and understand this, know this, realize this that if the head of the house [the one responsible for providing for, and taking care, of the house] had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

But, of course, He has just stated that no one knows when He is Coming. So, you better be awake all night and on guard.

In my life, in presenting the gospel, I have actually heard people say, *well I have plenty of time to make that decision.* I immediately alert them to two things:

- 1) They are making a decision right there, they are deciding not to believe in JESUS CHRIST, and
- 2) They have no guarantee of how much time they have.

As far as attentiveness, I much prefer to do funerals; no one listens at weddings, not even the bride and groom, but nearly everyone listens at funerals, it is going to be me up there in that casket before long.

So in our Lords parabolic lesson, no one knows when the thief is going to come.

Lesson from the context.

**The thief comes into the house;
he takes that which is valuable.**

Now look at Revelation 16:15

15 (*Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.*) [note the phrase] *stays awake*, [this is the same Greek word we just saw in Matthew 24:42—] *be on the alert* [(*gregoreuo*) and both of these passages refer to the same event, the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST.]

Matthew 24:42 is followed by a verse dealing with a thief coming in the night, just as here in Revelation 16:15.

Let us examine this passage.

Behold | [JESUS CHRIST] *am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes*

[perfect righteousness. The point here is that the believer will not be taken away but will remain, because he is prepared by the gospel while the unbeliever—unprepared by the gospel, will be removed, taken away.

Matthew 24:43 [parabolic principle]

43 “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

Principle:

Believers will be watching near the end of The Tribulation. Because they know that a thief is coming during this time to take away those unprepared and take away all their false allusions of grandeur and freedom from God But believers will be alert because of Bible prophecy.

Matthew 24:44

44 “For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

But before we leave the exhortation to be alert let us take a look at this warning to believers in the Church Age.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Where we have four exhortations in this one small verse

Be on the alert, this is the same verb we have been studying, and you stand alert by the doctrine you understand,

to stay in the Filling of the Holy Spirit *stand firm* in the freedom of grace wherewith Christ set you free *in the faith*, to go into the flesh is always there, you have to resist the flesh by continuing in Faith in the Holly Spirit *act like men*. Here Paul draws a principle from history where real men do not shirk responsibility, especially in battle. And the *be strong*; In Your **Doctrine**, in Your **Faith**, in the **Power** of the Holy Spirit.

It is so important to be alert in your prayer life:
Ephesian 6:18

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

People who do not take time to really pray, are not alert as to whom they should be in prayer. Also, prayers can so easily be interrupted by external things, and by our own flesh nature, so when you pray, be on the alert. This is why it is so helpful to have written down in front you those persons you should be in prayer.

And, of course,
there is the standard warning of 1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, This is not referring being sober from drinking but being sober in your THINKING!—
THINKING SPIRITUALLY biblically *be on the alert*.

And why be on the alert?

*Your adversary, the devil, prowls
around like a roaring lion, seeking
someone to devour.*

This does not mean to find some believer sinning, no, this means to find a believer who is walking by faith, and to distract them from faith, to the details of life—to devour their spiritual momentum.

Be alert! He has many schemes to devour Christians.

Now back to our study in the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST in Matthew.

Matthew 24:44

“For this reason [reasons given in verses 42-43] you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

First they must be *alert*, now they are exhorted to be *ready* comes with the *to be* verb plus the adjectives meaning *ready, prepared*. It is amazing how many people while driving an automobile are not prepared for the car in front of them to stop, or for a child to run out in front of them or a light to change, etc.

Well, as important as that is, this is far more important. For all to be ready when the Son of Man returns to this earth.

Note carefully how this is worded; *you also must be ready*

To whom is this addressed?

This warning is addressed to the Jews who do believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

Things are going to be so violent against them throughout The Tribulation when all nations will hate them; but they are not to become discouraged but remain ready for His Coming.

Arno Gaebelein points out that while they are exhorted to be ready, we in the Church Age are exhorted to wait for the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Why do I grow in Bible Doctrine?

Why do I grow in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST?

Why do I continually walk in the Holy Spirit?

Because we are waiting for the coming of JESUS CHRIST in the air to call us home. And what is so interesting is that while we wait we also look... anticipate His coming to call us home.

Phillipians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Living the Christian Way of Life is a Life of Being Alert and Being Ready. It is a Life Of Waiting and Anticipating, Growing In His Word and WALKING IN THE POWER AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... all these by simple faith. Living the Christian Way of Life is so simple...yet so difficult because of the World, the Flesh and the Devil.

But during The Tribulation they are to be ready, for His coming.

Tommy Ice points out the distinct difference between the generation of Jews at the Lord's first coming and those of His Second Coming. The generation of His First Coming were not looking for a Savior Messiah, but for a King who would deliver them from Rome. They had their understanding of Scripture so messed up. They ignored the passages and prophecies of His First Coming, to be the Savior and die on the cross, with those promises of how at His Second Coming He would deliver Israel from all her enemies.

Oh, people, it is so important to correctly understand Scripture.

And again, before we leave this exhortation to be the Jews to *be ready*, this same exhortation is given over-and-over to us in the Church Age. I am sorry to report this from Scripture but we are to be ready TO GIVE AS UNTO THE LORD...

1 Timothy 6:18

Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, We are not to give grudgingly or under compulsion but cheerfully and be ready to share.

There is a stern exhortation to the Pastor Teacher

2 Timothy 4:2

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

You know what this means?

IN SEASON
IS WHEN PEOPLE ARE POSITIVE TO BIBLE TEACHING

OUT OF SEASON
IS WHERE WE ARE TODAY, WHERE THE MASSES OF CHRISTIANS
ARE NOT INTERESTED IN VERSE-BY-VERSE TEACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD.

This brings us to the last parable of chapter 27.

JESUS CHRIST has been speaking of His return.

Now He turns to speaking of not just those who believe that He is the Promised Messiah, but those faithful to Him until He comes.

You see, people, being saved is a one shot decision, but living the life God desires is an everyday, all day journey. Just because we are born is not the final issue, it is what you do with your life that is the issue.

We have just seen the exhortation of being *alert, sure and ready*, but now JESUS CHRIST moves to the **faithfulness** of the believer... especially in these violent days of The Tribulation, when every nation hates you, and when even your own turn against you.

Will you be faithful to Him?

Matthew 24:45-51

45 *“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?”*

46 *“Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.”*

47 *“Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”*

48 *“But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’*

49 *and begins to beat his fellow slaves*

and eat and drink with drunkards;

50 *the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,*

51 *and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 24:45

45 *“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?”*

I am going to cautiously assume you know what ***faithful*** means; but what about ***sensible***:

Who is the *faithful* and *sensible* slave?

The Greek word is ***phronimos*** and comes from the root ***phroneo***... *to think*. So the first step to being sensible is you have to know how to think; It means to think, to hold an opinion, to make sensible judgments, and to be prudent. It is in the domain of *understanding*.

It is also made up of the Greek word ***phren*** which refers to the inner seat of all mental activity.

According to Volume 6 of "***The Complete Biblical Library***" it describes **one who uses his head and consequently is 'sensible, prudent' or regarded as one 'in his right mind'**.

Have you ever heard the charge "Are you out of your mind?" When your parents ask you this, they are saying... you're not acting sensibly.

To be sensible you have to understand how things work together. There are a lot of people who have understanding of various aspects of computers but it is a computer scientist who understands how all the parts interact and affect each other.

In English, this word is often used with or in place of the more common and confusing word *feel*, as in ***I feel this is the right thing to do.***

This may mean the person is guided by their emotions or it may mean they are guided by sound thinking.

In context here in Matthew 24, it means to be sensible as to evil that will come from the practice of vice. In the days of radio, the series ***The Shadow***, began with the words:

“The weeds of crime bear bitter fruit.”

Here in our context it is being sensible to realize the outcome of actions.”

45 *“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?”*

Both *faithful and sensible* are a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22

22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,*

faithfulness,
23 *gentleness, self-control; against such
things there is no law*

If you walk in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit
you will be Faithful in your Christian life,
you will be Sensible in your Christian life,
in your consistency in the intake of the Word of God,
growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

In this parable the faithful and sensible slave is put in contrast
to the evil slave;

verses 48 *“But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My
master is not coming for a long time,’ 49 and begins
to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with
drunkards;* [he deliberately neglects his duties –thinking his
master is not coming, and then takes advantage of those under
his responsibility and of his position.

This servant must be faithful and sensible. These come only
from God.]

James speaks of a **WISDOM**, a sensibleness that is fit for every
dispensation, especially in the time of The Tribulation.

James 3:13-18

- 13 Who among you is wise and understanding?
Let him show by his good behavior his deeds
in the gentleness of wisdom.
- 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish
ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant
and so lie against the truth.
- 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down
from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
- 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,
there is disorder and every evil thing. [Not act
sensibly-according to God]
- 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then
peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy
and good fruits, unwavering, without
hypocrisy.
- 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is
sown in peace by those who make peace.
[Compare this with the wisdom of the
Muslims.]

How do you live your life, your marriage, your home?

Do you live it being **Faithful** and **Sensible** before God?

Are you faithful in your relationship with your husband and wife, children, church, work, etc.

Does the Word of God make sense to you?...
or do you pick and choose what you will believe.

In our study of 1 Corinthians we are studying God's wisdom in your daily spiritual life, in your marital life and in every area of your lives.

Are the dictates of the Word of God sensible to you or do you pick and choose? When will you let it be your guide?

I love the way the book of Ecclesiastes ends.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

13 The conclusion, [of search of meaning of life, to life when all has been heard, *is: fear God* [awe of God] and keep His commandments, [faith and love] because this applies to every person.

Does not matter race, sex, age, economic status – young or old, rich or poor, black or white, single or married.

Can it be this simple? Absolutely! Why?

14 For God the one true God will bring

every act to judgment, [according to His perfect righteousness] everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Good—of the Holy Spirit

Evil—of the flesh

Oh, parent, you want your child/children to have the best education, well, here it is! Do you want him/her to be successful before man or before God?

While I have been relating *faithful and sensible* to believers in the Church Age, we must now go back to Matthew 24:45-51 where this parable directly relates with Israel, who has not been faithful and sensible in discharging her responsibilities to the Lord.

In this parable the household is Israel while the service of the slaves refers to the leaders of Israel, both spiritually and politically.

Do you know what Time it is?

The important phrase in this entire parable is in

verse 45 *at the proper time.*

Time is crucial to Israel, their leaders failed at the time of the first Advent, that the Messiah has come! at the time of His trials, and now the point is will they be sensible as to the time of His Return. Let us examine the parable in light of Israel and the Second Advent

45 *“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave [leaders of Israel] whom his master [Jesus the Messiah] put in charge of his household [nation of Israel] to give them their food [teaching] at the proper time? [At the time of His Second Advent.]*

Consequences of being a faithful and sensible servant

vs.

Consequences of being an evil servant.

More authority given to the faithful.

Matthew 24:46-47

46 *“Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.*

So doing what? Being a faithful & sensible servant as to the nation of Israel.

47 *“Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his*

possessions. [Nations in the millennium.]

Severe judgment to those who were evil servants.

48 *“But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’*

[They, like so many in the Church Age, look at the lapse of time, not the signs of the time that Jesus has been teaching since Matthew 24:5]

49 *and begins to beat his fellow slaves*

and eat and drink with drunkards;

[That is is they eat and drink with the Gentiles who will be ruling the world.]

Revelation 17:1

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

2 with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.

How would you like to spend eternity with hypocrites?

Matthew 24:50

50 *the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,*

(verse 36—no one knows, so the Faithful and Sensible servant stays prepared at all times.]

51 *and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

[And they will be kept from the great kingdom that will be established at His coming.]

To God a hypocrite is one who claims to be right with God, but in fact are not, They proclaim their good works, but DO NOT depend totally on JESUS CHRIST.

So here is the challenge to the Jews during The Tribulation
to be faithful from their faith in Jesus their Messiah,
sensible from their understanding
of Scripture, and the evil or unfaithful,
for failure of faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

Knowing the future
should determine how we live in the present

If there is no future
then it does not matter how you live

But Since there is a future, AN ETERNITY,
this should impact how a person lives
each day of his or her life.

**Be FAITHFUL and SENSIBLE
Each Day of Your Life,
In Every Area of Your Life.**