

**The Lord's Return and the Believer's Duty:
Watch, Be Ready, Be Faithful and Wise**

Mathew 24: 42–51

(Mk 13:35-37: Lk 21:36)

1. *The believer's duty:*

Watch

- a. The Lord does return
- b. The exact time is unknown

2. *Parable 1:*

***The owner of the house
(a professing believer)***

- a. He had a house to look after
- b. He lived without watchfulness
- c. He suffered disaster
- d. The point:
Readiness is essential,
for Christ comes unexpectedly

3. *Parable 2:*

***A faithful and wise servant (a genuine
believer)***

- a. His responsibility:
To oversee and feed the household
- b. His accountability:
He proves faithful
- c. His reward:
He will be put in charge
of the Lord's property

4. *Parable 3:*

A wicked servant

- a. His attitude:
He has plenty of time
- b. His behaviour:
He acts unjustly and worldly
- c. His judgment:
He is doomed
 - 1) The Lord catches him
unexpectedly
 - 2) The Lord condemns him to death
- with the hypocrites

42 “Therefore keep watch,
because you do not know
on what day your Lord will come.

43 But understand this:
If the owner of the house had known
at what time of night the thief was coming,
he would have kept watch
and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 So you also must be ready,
because the Son of Man will come
at an hour when you do not expect him.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant,
whom the master has put in charge
of the servants in his household
to give them their food at the proper time?

46 It will be good for that servant
whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

47 I tell you the truth,
he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But suppose that servant is wicked
and says to himself,
'My master is staying away a long time,'

49 And he then begins to beat his fellow servants
and to eat and drink with drunkards.

50 The master of that servant will come
on a day when he does not expect him
and at an hour he is not aware of.

51 He will cut him to pieces
and assign him a place with the hypocrites,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.