

Delay Is Awkward
Matthew 24:36-51

Delayed expectations create awkward uncertainties.

“What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24:3b

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

“For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

“For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage,

“until the day when Noah entered the ark,
and they were unaware until the flood came
and swept them all away, so will be the
coming of the Son of Man.

“Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

“But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant,
whom his master has set over his household,
to give them their food at the proper time?

“Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

“But if that wicked servant says to himself,
‘My master is delayed,’ and begins to beat his
fellow servants and eats and drinks with
drunkards,

“the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites.

“In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 24:36-51

1. **We know** Jesus is coming.

1. **We know** Jesus is coming.
2. **We don't know** when.

“the coming of the Son of Man” (37b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (37b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (39b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (37b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (39b)

“your Lord is coming” (42b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (37b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (39b)

“your Lord is coming” (42b)

“the thief was coming” (43b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (37b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (39b)

“your Lord is coming” (42b)

“the thief was coming” (43b)

“the Son of Man is coming” (44b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (37b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (39b)

“your Lord is coming” (42b)

“the thief was coming” (43b)

“the Son of Man is coming” (44b)

“when he comes” (46b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (37b)

“the coming of the Son of Man” (39b)

“your Lord is coming” (42b)

“the thief was coming” (43b)

“the Son of Man is coming” (44b)

“when he comes” (46b)

“the master . . . will come” (50a)

Delay does not diminish **truth**.

“concerning that day and hour no one knows” (36a)

“concerning that day and hour no one knows” (36a)

“unaware” (39)

“concerning that day and hour no one knows” (36a)

“unaware” (39)

“do not know” (42)

“concerning that day and hour no one knows” (36a)

“unaware” (39)

“do not know” (42)

“if the master of the house had known” (43)

“concerning that day and hour no one knows” (36a)

“unaware” (39)

“do not know” (42)

“if the master of the house had known” (43)

“do not expect” (44)

“concerning that day and hour no one knows” (36a)

“unaware” (39)

“do not know” (42)

“if the master of the house had known” (43)

“do not expect” (44)

“does not expect” (50)

“concerning that day and hour no one knows” (36a)

“unaware” (39)

“do not know” (42)

“if the master of the house had known” (43)

“do not expect” (44)

“does not expect” (50)

“does not know” (50)

2. **We don't know** when.

2. **We don't know** when.

“Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,” (36a)

No human knows.

“Curiosity is wonderful. For nosiness, intrusiveness, impertinence there is no excuse.”

Hendriksen & Kistemaker

No human knows.

No angel knows.

No human knows.

No angel knows.

The Son doesn't know.

Jesus reveals his relationship with the Father and how that relationship works.

“My Father . . . is greater than all . . . I and the Father are one.”

John 10:29-30

“the Father is greater than I.”

John 14:28b

“You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

Matthew 20:23

We know Jesus is coming.

We don't know when.

What do we do until then?

Resist the lull of the ordinary.

“For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

“For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,

“and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

“Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.”

Matthew 24:37-41

Resist the lull of the ordinary.

Recognize the two options.

Resist the lull of the ordinary.

Recognize the two options.

Stay awake and ready.

“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

“But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming,

“he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (42-44)

“prepared in mind and heart”

Hendriksen

“‘Being ready’ demands a continuously acceptable lifestyle, not an attempt to calculate the timing of the [return] so as to ‘prepare’ specifically for that event.”

R.T. France

Resist the lull of the ordinary.

Recognize the two options.

Stay awake and ready.

Embrace living faithfully today.

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant,
whom his master has set over his household,
to give them their food at the proper time?

“Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

“But if that wicked servant says to himself,
‘My master is delayed,’ and begins to beat his
fellow servants and eats and drinks with
drunkards,

“the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know

“and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (45-51)

What does it look like to live faithfully while we wait?

“Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.”
(46-47)

Resist the lull of the ordinary.

Eat, drink, and live with joy.

“Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

“Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

“Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun,

“because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.”

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

Recognize two options.

Choose the right one!

Stay awake and ready.

“Walk in a manner worthy . . .”

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”

Ephesians 4:1

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

“so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Colossians 1:9-10

“We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”

1 Thessalonians 2:12

Embrace living faithfully.

Obey and “do good.”

“Turn away from evil and do good;”

Psalms 34:14a

“Trust in the LORD, and do good;”

Psalms 37:3a

“I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;”

Ecclesiastes 3:12

“Learn to do good;”

Isaiah 1:17a

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,”

Luke 6:27b

“always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.”

1 Thessalonians 5:15b