



**Fellowship of Christian Firefighters
International**

Ministering to First Responders Since 1977

Bible Lessons – Commands of Christ

6-10-2019

Await My Return

Subject: Await My Return
Instructional Setting: Relaxed quiet atmosphere
Number of Students: As many as the facility will accommodate
Time: As long as needed to ensure understanding

Objective:	Bible References:
For Christian firefighters and first responders to be equipped to understand the command to wait for the return of Christ so that when He returns we are found faithful.	<u>Primary</u> Matthew 24:42-44 <u>Additional</u> Matthew 24:1-41 Revelation 22:12 I Thessalonians 5:2 Hebrews 9:28 II Peter 3:10 Acts 1:11

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Theme: Wait

Life Principle: Be found faithful when Christ returns

Translation: NIV

Introduction:

We knew it was coming. All the weather channels were predicting a direct hit from the hurricane. Fortunately, we had plenty of warning. All the local fire departments began to prepare for the event. Equipment was checked, and apparatus was fueled. Companies trained on what to do once the winds died down and how they would react to likely scenarios. Without this preparation, we might have jeopardized the safety of the citizens we were sworn to protect.

But what about your faith. We have been warned by the Bible that the return of Christ is near. Do your actions reflect that warning? Are you ready to meet Jesus face to face, or will you be ashamed at the things you are doing that go against Biblical principles? The Bible encourages us to prepare for this event with as much time and energy as we put into preparing for storms.

Color Code

Orange – People and pronouns

Blue – Time and chronology

Green – Places

Brown – Events

Red – Reoccurring words or themes

Purple – Main idea, keywords, or running concepts

Definition:

The passage uses to term “keep watch.” This phrase is an action word that implies we will be actively watching. The event is sure to happen; we just don’t know the time.

Lesson – Despise Not Little OnesThe Command

Matthew 24:42-44 – *“Therefore keep watch, because **you** do not know on what **day** your **Lord** will come. 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. So **you also must be ready**, because the **Son of Man** will come at an **hour** when **you** do not expect **him**.”*

- We have been instructed by the Bible that Jesus could come back at any moment. Nothing in history must be completed before His return. If the first century Christians were expecting His return, even so, should we be ready.
- Don’t let the cares of this world fool you into letting your guard down. God will return; it may be today.

Digging Deeper

- Our command starts with the word “therefore.” A good student of the Bible will always check to see what comes before that word because it is used, to sum up a thought.
- The section we are looking at is a logical or better stated practical conclusion to verses 1-41. Read this section to get a better understanding of the context for today’s command.
- The disciples came to Jesus privately in verse 3 and asked when the buildings of the Temple would be destroyed. Jesus referenced that destruction in verses one and two.
- Jesus went on to describe the signs of the end of the age:
 - Many will say “I am the Christ (verse 5)
 - There will be rumors of wars (verse 6)
 - Famines and earthquakes will happen in various places (verse 7)
 - Christians will be put to death (verse 9)
 - Christians will be hated by all nations (verse 9)
 - Many Christians will “fall away” (verse 10)
 - False prophets will spring up (verse 12)
 - The love of many will grow cold (verse 12)
 - The Gospel message will be proclaimed in all the world (verse 14)
- Jesus went on to remind folks what Daniel had prophesied concerning the “abomination of desolation” and events of the tribulation period (verses 29-31).
- Jesus taught on what we can learn from the fig tree (verses 32-35). We know when the fig tree is getting ready to produce fruit, we see the pattern every year. Notice how the events listed above we see in today’s world. Just like the signs of the fig tree, the signs of Jesus return are evident.
- Verses 36-41 explain that no one knows the day and the hour when the end will come. But as sure as the sun comes up in the east and sets in the west each day, the end of the age will come.
- Constant readiness is what Jesus is talking about. Firefighters and first responders who regularly get deployed fully understand this principle. They are always ready to be deployed.
- Mark 13:35 is a parallel verse that talks about a door-keeper, Matthew omits this parable.
- Verses 43-44 remind us that Jesus does not advertise when He will return, it could be at any minute. Don’t try to work out the date using the Bible. Others have tried and failed. Instead, just be ready as if it will be today.

Other Verses

Revelation 22:12 – *“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:2 – *“for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”*

Hebrews 9:28 – *“so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”*

II Peter 3:10 – *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.”*

Acts 1:11 – *“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? 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.”*

Application for First Responders:

Be Ready!!

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it so easy for firefighters and first responders to not be concerned about the return of Jesus?
- In what ways can you personally be prepared for that day?
- How should a person act in light of the return of Christ?

Bible Memorization:

II Peter 3:10 – *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.”*

Prayer Requests:

That I might learn to be ready for our Lords return.