

# Message



***Neal Parker***

# Thief In The Night

## -Matthew 24:32-44

**"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone...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...For this reason you must be ready..."**

**BE ALERT!!**

**EXPECT THE  
UNEXPECTED**

# Thief In The Night

## ■ I Thessalonians 5:1-9

- ❖ Day of the Lord will not possess / take them over
- ❖ Not appointed for God's Wrath / Can Incur God's Wrath
- ❖ Hebrews 10:26-31



# Thief In The Night

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- Parable of the 10 Virgins
- “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”



# Watch and Pray

**-Luke 21:34-36**

**“Watch and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape...”**



# What Does The Word "Watch" Mean?

## ■ **Context: Take Heed of Ourselves**

- Be vigilant about our own spiritual state
- Being circumspect and spiritually awake
- Clearly, Jesus' message is not an admonition to watch world events so that we will know when He will return. Instead, His instruction is to watch *ourselves*, which is what "*take heed to yourselves*" suggests.

## ■ **Watch: "To Be Sleepless"**

- Continuous and Wakeful concern
- Implies continuous and wakeful concern; to be intent or to exercise constant vigilance over something, as a shepherd watches over his sheep

# Illustration of Watching

## ■ Luke 12:35-40

- Be dressed in readiness and keep your lamps lit



# Illustration of Watching

## ■ Luke 12:42-47

- Responsibility of the Steward
- Preparation and Faithful Continuance of Duty





# Illustration of Watching

## ■ Mark 13:32-37

- “To Be Sleepless”
- Diligent, Alert, Taking Heed to Yourself
- In Work and Authority

## ■ Acts 1:6-7



# Warning: For Failure To Watch

## ■ Revelation 3:1-3

**“...Therefore, if you will not watch...I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.”**



# Application To Our Life: Watching

## ■ Isaiah 2:12, 17

- Target is the Proud and Lofty / Self Assured
- True watching emphasizes diligence
- True watching emphasizes being alert to spiritual dangers more than physical one.
- True watching is faithfully caring out our God-given responsibilities.

