

# Message

*Neal Parker*

## **The Watchful Servants**



# The Watchful Servants

## ■ Revelation 22:20

- If you knew Jesus was returning tomorrow, would that change how you live?
- If you knew Jesus was not returning tomorrow, would that change how you live?



# The Watchful Servants

## ■ Mark 13:33-37

- “Take Heed, Watch”
  - Appears four times
- Watch for what? What exactly am I supposed to watch?
- Jesus says that nobody knows the time.
- Then how do you watch what you cannot expect?



# The Watchful Servants

## ■ Matthew 24:42-44 / 25:13

– “Watch”

■ Appears two times

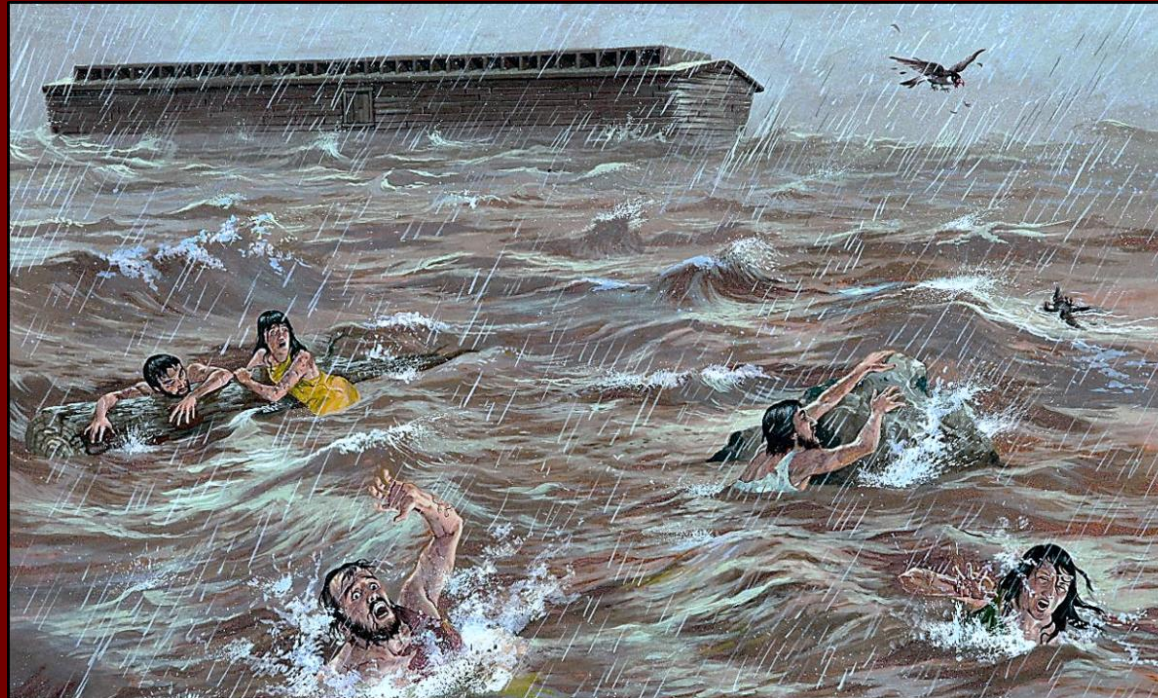
- The break-in of a thief illustrates something that is unpredictable.
- In the same way, the Son of Man will come when you least expect Him.



**“...so will be the coming of the Son of Man”**

**■ Matthew 24:38-39**

- To the unbelieving world, the flood came unexpectedly and with shattering suddenness.**
- It will be just like that when the Son of man comes.**



**“...the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night”**

■ **I Thessalonians 5:2-4**

■ **II Peter 3:10**

- It will not be like a thief for those who are prepared and expecting His coming at any time.
- There appears to be traumatic loss for not expecting His coming at any time.



# The Watchful Servants

## ■ Mark 13:33

- “Take Heed, Watch”
  - Appears four times
- Greek word here translated as ‘watch’ is *agrupneo*; literally means ‘without sleep’.
- You are watchful to the extent that you stay awake.



# The Watchful Servants

## ■ Matthew 25:13

- “Watch”
- Greek word here translated as ‘watch’ is *gregoreuo*; literally means ‘stay awake’.
- The point is to remain awake and to expect the Jesus’ return at any moment.



# The Watchful Servants

- **Ephesians 5:14**
  - “Arise from the dead”
- ❖ Notice the relationship between sleep and death.
- ❖ *Arise from the dead.*
- ❖ Arise from your sleep.



# The Watchful Servants

## ■ I Thessalonians 5:5-10

– “Sons [Daughters] of the Day”

- ❖ Light refers to the righteousness of God.
- ❖ Darkness in the Bible refers to evil, to the blackness of sin.
- Live as someone who conducts themselves in the light, who lives a life of righteousness and truth.



# “Who is the Faithful and Wise Servant?”

## ■ Matthew 24:45-50

- The readiness of the good servant consists not in sitting by the window watching for his master, but in getting on with the job he has been given to accomplish.
- The fault of the bad servant is in his assumption that the master will not be back soon and that therefore he will not be held to account.



# “Who is the Faithful and Wise Servant?”

## ■ Luke 21:34-38

- The Greek word here translated as ‘weighed down’ is *bareo*; literally means ‘overcharge’ / figuratively means ‘to burden’.
- The same word is used in Matthew 26:40-45.



# The Watchful Servants

## ■ Our Responsibility

- We must **“Take Heed, Watch”**.
- **‘Dissipation’**: It refers to the frivolity, when your moral restraints start to loosen up.
- **‘Drunkenness’**: This is literally to be intoxicated, to the point of falling asleep.
- **‘Cares of This Life’**: The preoccupation with and the unwillingness to part from the things of the world.
  - An undisciplined life can cause spiritual dullness and distract a person from being ready for Jesus' return

# The Watchful Servants

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