

Like a thief in the night



THIEF IN THE NIGHT

The Thief in the Night!

Are you ready for Christ's Return?



- What does Jesus say about dealing with the endtimes?



- What are the pointers telling us that **Endtime is NOW?**





- How should we deal with the Thief in the Night?
- Will we know when Jesus returns?
- What is the danger? – how can we fail?
- Is the thief going to get us?

The Faithful and the Evil Servant

Luke 12

- **35** "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning;
- **36** and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.
- **37** Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.
- **Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.**
- **38** And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants.
- **39** But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.
- **40** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Note:

- Servants expect their master to return from the wedding
- They keep watch
- Up to three in the morning
- They are responsive to their masters need
- They open the door for him
- Here the weird stuff – the master serves the servants?????
- Be ready – He comes when you don't expect him!

But:

- **41** Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?"
- **42** And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season?"
- **43** Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
- **44** Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

Notice:



- The servant is in charge
- He is feeding the household of the master at the right time
- Suggesting authority
- In the absence of the master he does what the master would do himself
- He is wise and faithful

But then things go wrong:

- **45** But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'
- and begins to beat the male and female servants,
- and to eat and drink and be drunk,
- **46** the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware,
- and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers.

Let's see:



- That servant is wise and knows his masters will
- Still he goes wrong and turns bad
- He thinks: "I can get away with it!" The Lord is away?!
- He is violent towards the servants he has authority over
- He eats and drinks suggesting he is not looking after his fellow servants
- He abuses his position and his power
- He becomes self indulgent – eat, drink and be happy but don't worry about anything else.

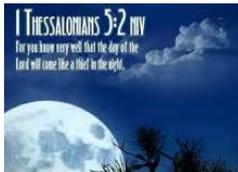
What does it tell us about the servant?

- He certainly doesn't work at his salvation with fear and trembling
- His heart is not with his master but with himself
- There is no love in his heart for his master or his fellow servants entrusted to his care!!!
- A real Christian????? His portion is with the unbelievers!
- To them Christianity is a means to an end – authority, food, self indulgence! It doesn't smell of repentance, a contrite spirit and love for God!

Philippians 2

- ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.
- **14** Do all things without complaining and disputing, **15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,...

The key verse:



- The master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware,



- Look at people in authority within Christianity
- Look at their fruits (not numbers but character)
- There are people in authority who spiritually abuse the church
- They don't look for Christ's return
- They indulge and feast on the food meant for the saints
- 2. Peter 2 a full chapter describing these people



2. Peter 2



- false prophets
- False teachers
- secretly bring in destructive heresies
- denying the Lord
- many will follow their destructive ways
- the way of truth will be blasphemed
- By covetousness they will exploit
- Deceptive Words
- walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority
- *They are* presumptuous, self-willed
- count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime
- eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin
- a heart trained in covetous practices
- they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness
- they allure through the lusts of the flesh
- slaves of corruption but promise liberty



Discern the Times:

- **54** Then He also said to the multitudes, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is. **55** And when you see the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot weather'; and there is.
- **56** Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how *is it* you do not discern this time?

Matthew Count Down timer:

- Deception
- False Christs
- Wars, famines and pestilences towards the end
- Persecution
- Hatred towards "real" Christians
- Christians being offended?!
- Betrayal within the church?!
- Many false prophets
- Sin will be huge – love will grow cold
- Gospel proclaimed to all nations then the end will come
- **Note: the break in the text!**
- Something happening with the Temple
- False Christs again
- False lying miracles, false prophets,
- Return of Christ in power and glory
- The days of Noah – carelessness about the things of God



The 2. Timothy Count Down Timer:

Know this also, that in the last days grievous times will be at hand:

- self-lovers
 - money-lovers
 - Boasters
 - Proud
 - Blasphemers
 - disobedient to parents
 - Unthankful
 - unholy,
 - without natural affection,
- unyielding,
 - false accusers,
 - without self-control,
 - savage,
 - despisers of good,
 - traitors,
 - reckless,
 - puffed up,
 - lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
 - having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it;

2. Thess. 2 - Count Down Timer

- first comes a **falling away** (apostasia)
- the man of sin shall be revealed
- he sits as God in the temple of God
- power and signs and lying wonders
- with all **deceit of unrighteousness** in those who perish
- did not receive the **love of the truth**, so that they might be saved.
- And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie
- who do not believe the truth, but **delight in unrighteousness**,



Revelation Count Down Timer:

Setting the stage:

- Laodicea Churches
- 666 Mark of the Beast
- Talking image
- Controlled Commerce
- Global Government
- Temple in Jerusalem / Israel
- Signs in the heavens!?
- Occult activity



Peter's Count Down Timer:

- scoffers walking according to their own lusts
- Where is the promise of His coming?
- These guys are blind and they can't see it!
- All should come to repentance!

1. Thessalonians 5:1-11

- But concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need *for it* to be written.
- For you yourselves know accurately that the day of *the Lord*, as a thief in *the night*, so it comes.
- For when they say, Peace and safety! Then suddenly destruction comes upon them, like the travail to the *one having babe* in womb, and not at all shall they escape.
- But you, brothers, are not in darkness, that the Day should overtake you as a thief.
- You are all sons of light and sons of day; we are not of night, nor of darkness.
- So then, we should not sleep, as the rest also do, **but we should watch** and be sober.
- For those sleeping sleep by night, and those having been drunk are drunk by night.
- But we being of day should be sober,
- "having put on *the breastplate*" of faith and love, and *the* hope of "salvation as a helmet,"
- because God has not appointed us to wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- He dying on our behalf, so that whether we watch or we sleep, we may live together with Him.
- Therefore, encourage one another, and build up one another, as you indeed do.



"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning"



What to do?

- The time is close
- Live like it is your last day
- Watch out for the coming of the Lord
- Do not be deceived
- Know that there are lying signs and wonders to deceive the elect if that were possible
- Love the Lord!!!!
