

Matthew 24:36 Not Knowing the Exact Time of His Coming

Introduction: In our text today we learn that it is impossible to know in advance exactly when Jesus will return.

I. What Jesus had already said about knowing the nearness of His coming.

- A. He had given ten signs which would indicate when His coming is near at hand.
- B. He had spoken of the coming of the Great Tribulation and had given a special sign to watch for which would indicate the nearness of the Tribulation.
- C. He spoke of the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars which would take place in the close of the Tribulation.
- D. It would be then that the sign of the Son of Man would appear.
- E. Jesus gave the Parable of the Fig Tree which shows that we can know when the coming is near at hand.
 - 1. One can know that summer is near when he sees the budding of the fig tree.
 - 2. Even so, when he sees these signs begin to come to pass he can know that the coming of Jesus is near – even at the doors.
- F. Jesus said the generation which sees the signs being fulfilled, that same generation would see Jesus come.

II. What Jesus says about not being able to know the exact time of His coming.

- A. Jesus says that the exact day nor hour of His coming is not known by any man.
 - 1. No matter how smart or how intelligent. (Some seem to think that if you are smart enough you will be able to read the signs and figure it out.)
 - 2. No matter how close to God one may be. (Some seem to think if you are close enough to God that this will entitle you to inside information so you can know.)
 - 3. No man in all the world will know in advance the exact time of His coming.
- B. No angel knows.
 - 1. Angels are more intelligent than man; if intelligence would enable you to figure it out, then it looks as if some angel would figure it out.
 - 2. Angels have a closer relationship with God; if being close to God would give one inside information, then it looks as if the angels would know.
 - 3. But no angel knows. Therefore if an angel appears to you or to somebody else and reveals a date, do not believe it. (That angel is a fallen angel.)
- C. Mark records that Jesus said even He does not know, Mark 13:32.
 - 1. Jesus is both Deity God and a human being all in one.
 - 2. As Deity God, the mind of God knows all things.
 - 3. But as man, the mind of His manhood does not know all things.
 - 4. For some reason, God the Father chose not to reveal this information to the mind of Jesus.
 - 5. It always pleases the Son to do the Father's will.
- D. Only God the Father knows.

III. How people ignore what Jesus has said.

- A. In spite of the fact that Jesus said nobody knows, every once in a while some Tom Fool idiot will set a date for His return. (A number have done so in the United States in my lifetime.)
- B. And in spite of what Jesus has said, a large number of people believe these date setters.
- C. One fellow had a large number of people waiting up in the hills of Arkansas for Jesus to come.

1. At the suggestion of the date setter, they sold all their property and gave the money to the date setter.
2. If he were right, he wouldn't need it.
3. How gullible can people be?

IV. What is important for us to know about His coming.

- A. It is not important for us to know the exact time of His coming. (If it were, we could know.)
- B. It is important for us to know that He is coming.
 1. He is coming to conquer the Anti-Christ.
 2. He is coming to call the redeemed from the graves and to rapture the redeemed who are living.
 3. He is coming to set up His millennial kingdom.
 4. He is coming to eventually put down all evil.
 5. He is coming to cast the unredeemed into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.
- C. It is important for us to know how close we are getting to His second coming.
(Lest we get too involved in the material things of life.)
- D. It is important for us to be prepared for His coming.
 1. It is important to be saved.
 2. It is important to be living in a way that pleases Him.

Conclusion: If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready? Even if He does not come today, if He were to call you home today would you be ready?