

Matthew 24:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Analysis

Jesus' command 'Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come' emphasizes vigilance due to uncertainty. 'Watch' means spiritual alertness, moral preparedness, and faithful service. The uncertainty 'ye know not what hour' prevents complacency—we must live ready for Christ's return at any moment. This isn't anxious fear but joyful anticipation motivating holy living. Date-setting is forbidden; readiness is commanded.

Historical Context

Jesus repeatedly emphasizes the unknown timing of His return (vv. 36, 42, 44, 50). This prevents speculation and manipulation while encouraging constant readiness. 'Watch' isn't passive waiting but active faithfulness. The command assumes believers should live expecting Christ's imminent return, though timing remains uncertain.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does not knowing Christ's return timing affect your daily life and decisions?
2. What does 'watching' look like practically in your walk with Christ?

Interlinear Text

γρηγορεῖτε	οὖν	ὅτι	οὐκ	οἴδατε	ποίᾳ	ώρᾳ	ό	κύριος
Watch	therefore	for	not	ye know	what	hour	G3588	Lord
G1127	G3767	G3754	G3756	G1492	G4169	G5610		G2962
ὑμῶν	ἔρχεται							
your	doth come							
G5216	G2064							

Additional Cross-References

Luke 21:36 (Parallel theme): Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

Matthew 25:13 (Parallel theme): Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Revelation 16:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (Parallel theme): Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Matthew 24:36 (Parallel theme): But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Matthew 24:44 (Parallel theme): Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Romans 13:11 (Parallel theme): And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

1 Peter 5:8 (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 4:7 (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.