What If Jesus Comes Tomorrow?
Matthew 24: 42

Jesus is talking about His return

Look in verse 42….Watch therefore…means to be spiritually alert
- Do you remember 1 Peter 5…when Peter said,

\[ \text{8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,}
\]
\[ \text{seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him,} \]

Be Spiritually Alert

Verse 43-44…Jesus says He’s coming back to take us to heaven…. but He doesn’t know when that will be

Truth is….we can speculate…we can guess….But we don’t know when Jesus is coming
We Do Know This….His coming is closer than it has ever been
We know that Jesus could return at any moment

We know that the Birth Pains of Romans 8….\[ \text{For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.} \]

Today I want to do this…. 
1. I want us to use our imaginations
2. Even though we don’t know when Jesus is coming
3. Let’s just Pretend in the providence of God….that He had made an announcement years ago that on Monday morning January 20\text{th} 2014 @ 8am Jesus Christ is going to return
4. SO you went to the driveway this morning and picked up the newspaper and the headlines said Jesus Christ is to return tomorrow
5. So tonight…you turn on the news on channel 15, 21, 33, or 55 and they are announcing that Jesus Christ will return in 10 hours
6. I want you to use your imagination and think about what it would be like if we knew that Jesus Christ Gods only Son returned tomorrow @ 8am
7. I’ve been thinking about that
8. There would be all kinds of different feelings, emotions & thoughts
For Example…

1. There would be a lot of Christians filled with Joy that Jesus was coming in the morning
   - Tomorrow morning in the oncology department at Parkview & Lutheran hospital there
     will be patients with cancer that are believers who will be overjoyed for Jesus to come
   - I think of a man named Alan Hinkle…who went to be with the Lord on Friday before
     Christmas and was buried Friday after Christmas. I think of the Joy that Margaret his
     wife will have tomorrow when the Lord comes back and she’ll see Alan again
   - I think of a little 10 year old girl named Angel… … .talk more about her at the end of
     message
   - There’s another little girl who attended a SBC Church in Dallas recently for the first
     time on Sunday night who was born Blind. Can you imagine the Joy she would have
     tonight if she found out that Jesus was coming tomorrow in the morning….she would
     sit there in her seat and say to herself …in just over 12 hours…I’m literally going to
     be able to see for the first time in my life…and I get to see Jesus

2. Everybody wouldn’t have Joy…
   - There are a lot of people who would be disappointed
   - You say who could be disappointed
     a. Think for example an unsaved athlete
        1. Who has given his life to train his body for fame & fortune and he found out
           Jesus was returning in the morning
        2. His dreams would vanish at the return of Jesus
     b. Think about a Worldly Businessman who sacrifices God & Family for the
        almighty dollar
        1. He’s built his office…he’s built his empire…his portfolio is massive
        2. And…if he knew that tomorrow Jesus was coming…
        3. he would say…”all this for nothing” …”it will all be over tomorrow morning
     c. I think of a Prideful Politician…
        1. perhaps planning on running in the elections next fall
        2. If they found out Jesus was returning in the morning
        3. They would cry My goodness…my goal in life was to win a senate seat… I’ve
           gone through all this for Nothing!
     d. Than I Think Many people who would watch the news and hear that Jesus was
        coming tomorrow Monday morning Jan 20th, 2014
        1. They would be filled with FEAR
        2. They would be afraid …”Gee, what’s that mean…what can I do
        3. What’s going to happen to me? What’s going to happen to my family?
Three Categories... every one of us here today is in one of these categories
Poll the crowd...If you believe that Jesus could return tomorrow...Please say Amen

Category #1...Are those who are ready, waiting, watching, & working
Ready...people who are saved
Waiting...there's a certain amount of expectancy...I want Jesus to come
Watching...being spiritually alert
Working...you're faithfully serving God

Look Matthew 25: 14-23
- Two of these 3 servants are in this category...These are the people who want the Master to come back and find them ready, waiting, watching & working
- If Jesus were to come tomorrow morning @ 8am you would want the Master to find you doing what you are suppose to be doing
- This is the category we want to be in....are you in this category???

Story...Father had taken his son & daughter out in a boat into the gulf...
- they couldn't swim
- But they knew they were going to be in the boat with their father and they'd be safe
- About 200 yds. from shore and the boat sprung a leak...father looking around for what he could do
- He said to his daughter..."We've got a serious problem out here, the boat is sinking, neither one of you can swim
- You're a little older than your brother so I'm going to take your brother in my arms first and swim back to the shore
- He said," Sweetheart...I haven't taught you how to swim but I HAVE TAUGHT YOU HOW TO FLOAT ON YOUR BACK...so I want you to lay on your back & float
- Don't worry because I am coming back for you and I’ll get you.
- She said okay Daddy...so she started floating on her back and he swam the son to shore and swam back to his daughter thinking that by then she would be panic’d
- When he got back to his daughter...he found her still floating in perfect Peace
- He told his daughter how proud he was of her
- She said....Daddy you told me that you were coming for me so all I did was what you told me to do till you returned
- Isn’t that a beautiful picture? Of how it ought to be with Jesus
- John 14: 1-6
- Just like that little girl...we should be doing what Jesus told us to do until He returns for us to take us home
Category #2…Ready…But That’s All
- These people are saved…they’ll go to Heaven…but that’s all
- They’re not waiting, they’re not watching…they’re not working…they’re just saved
  - 1 John 2:28
    28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
- John says to these saved people …when Jesus comes to take you to heaven…I don’t want you to be ASHAMED.
- Sometimes ussins…just blend into the world not really doing anything for the Lord

Story…I heard about a man last week who loved color gold.
- He had gold put down on the floor of his bedroom…gold on the walls, gold on the ceiling
- His furniture was gold
- He had a gold colored bedspread
- He even bought gold colored pajama’s
- As it would happen…the man got sick with yellow jaundice
- His wife called the Dr and said Doc you’ve got to get over and check my husband out…I’m very concerned about him
- So the Doc came over to check him out…went upstairs to his room….closed the door
- A few minutes later he came back downstairs
- Wife said, Doc is he going to be alright?
- Doc said, “I don’t know I couldn’t find him!
- You see he had just Blended in
I’m afraid sometimes that is just like us…we just try as Christians to just blend in
Listen…if you & I Just Blend in…when Jesus comes…we are going to be ashamed

Matthew 5 13 “You are the salt of the earth; 14 “You are the light of the world.
-Two things….You are SALT….You are LIGHT
  1. Salt & Light changes things
  2. Salt preserves…Light dispels darkness…there’s not a fitting in
Category #3… Those who are just not Ready
- Jesus said the majority of people are not ready

Matt 25:1-13 Oil – holy spirit

Spiritual Principle….
If you want to be ready for Jesus return… you must be saved

Amos 4:12 12 “Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel;
Because I will do this to you,
Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

Are you Prepared?

Ask Question? Do you have the Holy Spirit living in you?

Thinking About How to be Prepared to meet Jesus? The way to be Prepared

Eph 2: 8 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Acts 16:31 31 So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Faith in Jesus

Illustration…
Some of you are campers or outdoorsman… you’ve used a compass.
- If you know anything about a compass… what way does the needle always point? North
- Question… where does the Bible say Heaven is? North
- If that needle is somehow off-centered … it will keep moving until it finds north
- But if that needle is in the north… IT IS STILL
- Your SOUL is like that compass
- When God made the human soul… God designed that Soul… to be able to REST
- In One Position… and that is facing North trusting Jesus
- You see if you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your Salvation
- The needle of your heart is pointing north and it is still… and at Peace

- But I can guarantee you just the opposite is true
  a. If your Soul… if the faith… the needle of your soul is not pointing towards Jesus
If it is pointing toward …
1. trying to be good
2. trying to be baptized
3. promising God I’ll do better

b. If the Faith in your soul is pointed toward anything other than Jesus
   1. Your needle is Off-Center
   2. And your Soul has No REST

I Must Confess that happens in my life…and I bet it does yours too!

Now…the way we get ready to meet him is to place our Faith in Jesus
1. Take one step further
2. Question…How Do I Get My Faith in the North?
   a. In Scripture…word **BELIEVE** always has with it the idea of commitment
   b. John 3:16   EPH 2:8  commitment –Trust

Illustration…In a church service during invitation an 8 yr old girl named Rebecca came forward to be saved her Dad came with her
- The pastor said to the Dad ..right after the service will go in our counseling room and share with Rebecca how to be saved
- Went into the room and sat …Father, Rebecca, Mother, and her sister Angel
- Talked about Angel earlier…10 yrs. old born blind
- So pastor talking to Rebecca about Jesus very detailed
- One of his questions…Rebecca how do we have our sins washed away?
- Angel spoke up, “Rebecca you just invite Jesus into your heart!”
- Parents had not talked with Angel about the Lord before… so the Pastor began talking with Angel as well explaining Salvation & Sin
- While the Pastor was expounding eloquently about salvation
- Angel lifted her head up looking to heaven…and said Jesus save me right now!
- Pastor asked Rebecca if she understood and wanted to ask Jesus in her heart
- Rebecca said I just did while Angel did

It’s that simple
   It’s a commitment…place your faith in Jesus

People are asking the question today …What is this world coming to?

The world is coming to Jesus ….Bible said there is coming a day when every knee shall bow