**Matthew 24:42-25:13 – We do not know when**

**Main Idea: A lack of alertness leads to great loss**

**Context**

**The initial coming of the Son of Man is secret and unexpected. First, He selectively takes believers with Him and then takes away others in judgment.**

**The application of the reality that we simply do not know when He’ll come leads Jesus to a clear application for believers: Watch and be ready!**

**1. Matthew 24:42-52 Alertness impacts our behavior**

 **24:42-44 Be ready or suffer loss**

 **24:45-47 An alert life leads to great reward**

 **24:48-51 Failure to be alert leads to bad behavior with a sad outcome**

**2. Luke 12:39-48 Alertness impacts our faithfulness and our judgment**

 **12:41-42 This teaching is for those who care to be faithful**

 **12:43-44 Faithfulness results in blessing and reward**

 **12:45-46 Faithfulness is tied to our view of immanency**

 **Notice: It is “that servant”**

 **The issue is faithfulness among Christians**

 **Poor theology results in poor behavior**

 **Our eschatology impacts our love**

 **Our eschatology impacts our future**

 **12:47-48 We are required to live what we know**

 **If we know better we must act better**

 **Ignorance matters**

 **“To whom much is given…”**

 **What’s required of us? To love and care for other believers**

* **We know His coming will be unexpected**
* **We are required to live alert lives**
* **We know we will be held accountable**
* **We are required to love and care for others**
* **What other things must we know? Where do we find our “Master’s will”?**

**3. Matthew 25:1-13 Alertness impacts our preparedness**

**The problem here isn’t unbelief; it is neglect.**

**25:1-10 The setting is the women who would often act like entertainers at weddings. They would often perform “torch dances” when the celebration began.**

* **While they are waiting, both the wise and the foolish catch up on sleep.**
* **Oil had to be poured on the rags on their torches often.**
* **The foolish virgins neglected to bring enough oil and while the wise brought enough, it wasn’t enough for the foolish, too. The stores were closed at midnight.**
* **When they finally got enough, the doors were closed.**
* **“I don’t know you” is not “I never knew you.” This is simply a parabolic way of saying they were excluded from the celebration.**
* **Their problem wasn’t unbelief, it was neglect.**
* **Failure to stay close to Jesus can result in shame 1 Jn. 2:28**
* **This ends with two “brackets”: “Watch”, “you do not know”.**

**Applications**

**The “thief” robs those who are not looking for him. He also robs those who don’t prepare to “go the distance.” There is great loss for both.**

**To know God’s will we need to be in God’s Word.**

* **The Spirit uses the Word to give us the “oil” of God’s truth and keep our fire for Him alive.**
* **If we neglect God’s Word, getting what we need in a hurry is difficult.**
* **Get a Bible reading plan**

**We cannot do it by simple determination; you need the Spirit’s help.**

* **Develop a plan for prayer**
* **Involve your loved ones, your world, the Church, and you**