

**“How to be ready for His Coming!” – Pt. 3  
Luke 12:40**

**Big Idea – I need to live my life so I’m ready if Jesus would come today.**

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**Big Idea – I need to live my life so I’m ready if Jesus would come today.**

Matthew 24:44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at a time you don’t expect him.

**1. Gather with God’s people for worship.**

Hebrews 10:25 “...let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

**2. Grow in our relationship with Christ.**

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory be to him now and forever! Amen.

**3. Give what God has given to us.**

Luke 19:13: “Put this money to work until I come back.” Are you giving of your time, your talents, and your treasures for kingdom purposes, knowing you will give an account when He returns? What about your will?

**4. Go with the gospel to our neighbors and the nations.**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses for me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Jesus told us in Matthew 28:20 “While you’re going make disciples everywhere, baptizing them, and teaching them to do all the things I’ve commanded you.”

**5. Grow in purity.**

1 John 3:3: “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself as He is pure.”  
Would you be okay if He had returned when you were involved in that secret sin this week?

## **6. Make peace with others.**

Hebrews 12:14 “Follow peace with all people and holiness...”

15 “Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.”

Do you want Him to come back while you’re nursing that grudge? Do you want Him to return when a lack of forgiveness is tearing your relationships apart?

## **7. Put Christ and His kingdom first.**

Luke 21:28 says: “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

John 9:4 “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work.”

Put Him first in your time, talents and treasure. Trust & obey Him Completely!

This is no time to play it safe or sit on the fence. Don’t be a “mug-wump”

## **8. Encourage others by speaking of the Lord’s return.**

After describing end-time events, Paul concludes in 1 Thessalonians 4:18: “Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

To “encourage” means to come alongside to give whatever help or comfort is needed. We need a reminder to be ready, for His return will encourage those around us.

## **9. Live as if today is the day.**

Luke 12:40 “You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Dr. Horatius Bonar, a Scottish hymn writer from the 1800s, had a custom every night and every morning. When he’d close his curtains before going to bed, he’d say, “Perhaps tonight, Lord!” And in the morning, he’d open the curtains, look up, and say, “Perhaps today, Lord!” This is a practice that would be good for us to imitate.

## 10. Cultivate a Maranatha mindset.

The Greek word “Maranatha” is found in Revelation 22:20. It means, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

1 Peter 4:7 “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.”

## 11. Prepare for His return the next time you celebrate communion.

The Lord’s Supper is a time to remember His first coming and to recalibrate our lives so we’re ready for His second coming.

1 Corinthians 11:26: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”

## 12. Hasten His coming by soul winning

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

2 Peter 3:11 “...You should live holy lives and serve God,  
12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...”

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”

Ray Pritchard, president of Keep Believing Ministries, said this about always being ready: “I believe the coming of the Lord must be near. Many Christians before me have said the same thing. I’m taking my stand with them. I’d rather expect Jesus to come in my lifetime and be wrong than to be so in love with the world that I’m not ready to see Him when He comes.”

## Practical Applications

1. If Christ were to come back right now, would you rejoice or want to run and hide?
2. What’s the name of an unsaved person you will pray for on a regular basis?  
Write their name down.
3. **Daily** seek the prompting of the Holy Spirit to enable you to share the gospel with someone?

4. What would you do differently right now if you knew for certain Jesus was returning at 8:00 tonight?

## **Conclusion**

Friend, Jesus is coming back. Are you ready ... or not?

You certainly don't want Jesus to come back before you've repented of your sins and received Him as your Savior.

I'm reminded of the old Larry Norman song:  
Two men walking up a hill,  
One disappears and one's left standing still.  
I wish we'd all been ready.  
There's no time to change your mind,  
The Son has come, and you've been left behind.

If you have never turned your life over to Christ and received His salvation, it's time to be reconciled to God before it's too late!

According to 2 Peter 3:9-10, God's patience is on a divine timer: "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

Let's not beat around the bush. The consequences are too great, and the stakes are way too high. Let me say it as clearly as I can. If you have never repented and received Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, you will be in deep trouble when Jesus comes back. If you don't know Jesus, you have an appointment with judgment, and it will be certain, swift, and severe.

Do you want to face ruin, or do you want to be rescued? Do you want to go to Heaven or to Hell? Do you want deliverance or destruction?

Don't be left behind. Right now, Jesus is seeking a relationship with you. Respond to Him before it's too late.