

Why should I live like the end is near?"

Matt. 24:36-51

1. Intro:

- a. Hey Blue Ridge Family. If I haven't met you yet, I'm Dustin Wells and I'm one of the elders here at the Blue Ridge Campus.
- b. You know this about me, but I love sports movies. From remember the titans, to Hoosiers, to Coach Carter, even to Rocky.
- c. One of the things I love about Sports movies... is that most of them have a "Why are you making them do that?" moment.
  - i. In Remember the titans, it's the early morning through the woods
  - ii. In Miracle, it's the endless down-backs with Herb Brooks yelling "Again".
- d. Pastor J.D. ended his sermon last week, with a call for us to be ready or to be anticipatory of Jesus' second coming.
- e. I think this can be one of those moments? Where you ask Why would I do that? I don't want to be one of those doomsday people who say the world is gonna end. I mean I was in school when June 6th, 2006 happened and there were these weirdos saying it was all over.
- f. Why should I live like the end is near?

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[b]</sup> but the Father only. **37** For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For as in those days before the flood they were eating

and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, **39** and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. **41** Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. **42** Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **43** But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**45** "Who then is the faithful and wise servant,<sup>[c]</sup> whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? **46** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. **47** Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. **48** But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' **49** and begins to beat his fellow servants<sup>[d]</sup> and eats and drinks with drunkards, **50** the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know **51** and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

2. We don't know when the end will come.

a. EXPL:

- i. "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[b]</sup> but the Father only. **37** For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For as

in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, **39** and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. **41** Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. **42** Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **43** But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- ii. Jesus begins his argument for why we should live like the end is near by pointing out a few things.
  1. His teaching at first glance can look like almost like the dog from Up. "Squirrel"... In these verses Jesus talks about Angels, the days of Noah, people partying, men in a field, women in a mill, masters and thieves.... What is he saying?
  2. Jesus is exhaustively going out of his way to make the point that we live like the end is near because: SAY POINT HERE
  3. Jesus says He doesn't know, angels don't know, the people of Noah's age didn't know the flood was coming, master didn't know about the thief.
  4. He ends by saying therefore be ready; live like the end is near. Because you don't know, be ready

**b. ILL:**

- i. There are two suitcases I have packed in my life.
  1. Vacation... It's coming but is a ways off.... I got some important stuff to get done before I make it there... Often pack my suitcase the day before.
  2. The "Go Bag" for our pregnancy... Because we believed it could truly be any day we were ready.

**c. ARG:**

- i. I think that it is really easy to live as though the coming of Jesus is a vacation we can put off packing for versus a go bag that could come at any moment.
- ii. Is it... yeah that will be here someday but for now I've got some important stuff to handle.
- iii. Or are you living with a "go-bag" mentality?
- iv. More than 20 times Jesus gives this charge
- v. Why? We don't know when the end is coming?

**d. APPL:**

- i. **What you anticipate, you give attention to.**
  1. As a kid, remember making your christmas list.
  2. As you anticipated christmas coming, it dominated your thoughts, it changed how you looked at things in stores, it changed how you viewed douglas firs... Because your heart was anticipating it, your mind gave it attention.
- ii. As we look at this charge from Jesus, to be ready. To anticipate Him, and give Him our attention.
  1. A question we should ask ourselves is **"What has my heart's anticipation and my mind's attention?"**

### 3. Our mindset changes our actions

#### a. EXPL:

- i. 45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant,[c] whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants[d] and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- ii. Jesus talks about two servants, a foolish one and a wise one.
  1. One is faithful and taking care of the household
  2. The other is wicked.
- iii. What is really interesting in this parable is that the difference between the two servants is found first in their mindset.
- iv. The wise servant gives food at the proper time, in a way that the master will find him doing it when he comes...
- v. The wicked servant, beats people and drinks with drunkards... but notice Jesus doesn't begin with that. He starts with " says to himself, my master is delayed"

1. Jesus shows that the wicked servant's belief of the master's delay contributes to his debauchery.

#### vi. SAY POINT HERE

#### b. ILL:

- i. Boromir and Aragorn
  1. They hear the same facts... the ring is dangerous
  2. They are both men
  3. Their actions around the ring vary wildly
  4. Why?
    - a. Boromir believed the ring could be used by him to bring about salvation for his people. This led to him turning on Frodo
    - b. Aragorn heeded the words of the council and supported Frodo even at the end being willing to lay down his life for him to help him fulfill his mission.
- ii. Your mindset will change your actions

#### c. ARG:

- i. We also see this in scripture.
  1. The 12 spies that go into the promised land.
    - a. 10 come back and say "We shouldn't go in, god is good but those Giants are HUGE.
    - b. 2 come back and say "Yes the opposition is strong, but our God is greater. He will drive them out."
- ii. Their mindset changed their actions, and ultimately led Israel to wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

#### d. APPL:

- i. For some of us in this room, the struggles we face and brokenness we are walking in aren't just behavior wars; they are mindset wars.
- ii. **Broken Mindsets:**
  - 1. **The Grass is greener**
    - a. My life would be better if \_\_\_\_.
    - b. I'll be content when \_\_\_\_.
    - c. This mentality implies a subtle entitlement, that is what I should have.
    - d. It gives me license to complain, to envy, to compare because it's not fair that the grass is greener on the other side.
    - e. The problem isn't that we want too much... It's that we don't want enough. Jesus calls us to look where the grass is perfect.
    - f. Where there will be no more sickness, pain, evil, injustice.
    - g. When life tempts me to look at other situations, I need the Spirit to bring my mind and heart to the ultimate beautiful reality.
  - 2. **I'll get to that someday**
    - a. This one comes right out of our passage.
    - b. It's possible to have the mission but the wrong sense of urgency.
    - c. We buy into the lie that time is an infinite resource and we have loads of it so we can push off obedience and faithfulness to God's call to a later date.
    - d. The issue is that every day you live with a mission, or to use this passage's wording you live with a master.

- e. If you are delaying living for the Lord, you aren't stagnant you are living for something else.
- f. Before we know it, we've been chasing deceptive masters, and time catches up with us, then we squander opportunities we once relished.
- g. I think this is why the psalmist says in Psalm 90:12 **"Teach us to number our days,** that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
- iii. Where might you need to allow the Lord to help you adopt a new mindset?
  - 1. Are you buying into the lie that the grass is greener elsewhere?
  - 2. Are you currently pushing off obedience for today into tomorrow?
- 4. CONCL:
  - a. You've convinced me on the why. We live as though the end is near because we don't know the time, and our mindset changes our actions
  - b. **What could living like the end is near look like?**
    - i. **Fixing your mind on the true destination of your life**
      - 1. Remember that what you were made to look towards, and long for is Jesus. (f1 race)
    - ii. **Embrace Faithfulness in the ordinary.**
      - 1. The servant who was faithful, didn't do headline grabbing things. He was just faithful to do what God had called him to do.
    - iii. **Steward your time**
      - 1. One of our identities. If I knew that the world was ending next week. What would I have changed about this one?

2. Not to go freakishly overboard, like I'd quit my job and go across the grand canyon... because the world also might not end next week... But would I have spent as much time behind a screen? Or scrolling on my phone? Or playing a video game?
  3. What are you saying? Is stewarding my time meaning having no fun? NO, Stewarding your time is being mindful of how much time you spend on things that give you an escape from this world; so that your missional urgency doesn't escape with it.
- iv. Regularly pray for and share the gospel with the lost around me.
1. Lastly and simply if we are to live as though the end is near. We must prioritize bringing as many people made in the image of God with us.
  2. When we make it to Rev. 7; I want my family in that room... I want my neighbors in that room...
  3. What does this mean? That every conversation I should have is about the gospel?
    - a. I don't think so, I do think we should adopt a mindset like Jesus does in John 5 "So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."
    - b. We should be asking God regularly to show us where He is already working, and having open ears, eyes, and hands to join Him in that work with those around me.
- c. Why do we live like the end is near? Because the end is coming, and we will want to have looked back like the US olympic team, or the Titans and have seen it was worth it.