

Jesus Is Coming Back: Are You Ready?

Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon Notes for August 30, 2026

SERMON CONTENTS

1. The Unexpected Inspection

An unexpected inspection by potential home buyers can expose how unprepared we can be as home sellers when we don't know the exact timing of their arrival. The same is true of Jesus' return — we know it's coming, but uncertainty about timing tempts us to keep putting off what matters: our relationship with God, our obedience, our witness.

The real question this morning isn't really "Is He coming?" The question that matters is: "Will I be ready when He does?"

2. Jesus Promised He Is Coming Back

Jesus tells them there will be a second coming, and this time it won't be about salvation — it will be about judgment and fulfillment.

Hope says, "He's coming, and that's good news." Urgency says, "So live like it matters today."

Jesus' first coming brought salvation — grace we didn't deserve. But He promised a second coming, this time bringing judgment and fulfillment. Even Jesus, in His humanity, said He didn't know the exact hour (v.36) — so no chart or prediction today can know either. The FACT of His return is certain; only the TIMING is unknown. This should produce both hope (the story isn't over) and urgency (live like it matters today).

3. Nobody Knows the Day or Hour

Like the days of Noah, people go about ordinary life unaware until it's too late (vv.37-39). Jesus calls us to 'keep watch' (v.42) — not anxious clock-watching, but settled, everyday readiness, like a homeowner who keeps the house in order as a lifestyle, not a last-minute panic. What does your spiritual house look like right now — unconfessed sin, unresolved relationships, neglected prayer or Scripture?

4. Don't Let the Delay Fool You

The delay isn't a sign that God forgot, or that God changed His mind, or that the promise was empty. The delay is mercy.

The church has been waiting for Christ's return for 2000 years. Why is it taking Him so long, is He really coming?" The early church asked the same question, and Peter answered it in 2 Peter 3:9. God's patience is mercy, not forgetfulness or absence of a plan. Every extra day is an opportunity for someone to turn to Him. But patience isn't forever — the door held open will eventually close, and the day will come 'like a thief,' suddenly.

5. We Should Live Ready — Six Words

Titus 2:13 calls Christ's return our 'blessed hope' — not something to dread. Living ready means:

- WATCH — stay spiritually alert
- PRAY — maintain real fellowship with God
- WORK — serve with the time and gifts you have
- WITNESS — tell others about Jesus
- WALK HOLY — live in a way that honors Him
- WAIT EXPECTANTLY WITH HOPE — His return is good news for those who belong to Him

6. Are You Ready?

The most important question is whether you're ready to meet Jesus. Romans 10:9 makes it simple: confess Jesus as Lord and believe He rose from the dead, and you will be saved. Whether you've never crossed that line, or you drifted after once committing your life to Him, today is still the day of God's patience — the door of mercy is still open. Get your house in order now.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *For personal reflection or group discussion*

1. What is one area of your 'spiritual house' you've been putting off dealing with — like getting the house ready for potential buyers in the sermon's story?
2. How do hope and urgency work together in how you think about Jesus' return? Do you tend to lean more toward one than the other?
3. God's patience is described as mercy, not slowness. How does that change the way you view unanswered prayers or delayed promises in your own life?
4. Of the six words — Watch, Pray, Work, Witness, Walk Holy, Wait with Hope — which one do you most need to grow in right now, and why?
5. Have you ever settled the question of Romans 10:9 in your own life? If you have, is there an area where you've drifted and need to recommit?

KEY TAKEAWAYS: *Main points to remember and apply*

1. Jesus' return is certain, even though the timing is unknown — live ready, not anxious.
2. God's delay is an act of mercy and patience, not evidence that His promise is empty.
3. Readiness is a daily lifestyle (Watch, Pray, Work, Witness, Walk Holy, Wait with Hope), not a last-minute scramble.
4. The most important question today is not about circumstances — it's whether you have truly given your life to Jesus as Lord.
5. Whether it's a first-time decision or a recommitment, today is still the day of God's open door.