

# Matthew 24:42–51

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 24. After presenting the material orally on Wednesday night, I decided to write a short article about the material for the Saturday bulletin.

Today, we will talk about Matthew 24:42-51.

## **Monitoring behavior**

In the first article of this series (titled “Matthew 24:1-5” on Oct. 9), I mentioned two ways to watch.

- Watching means noticing world events.
- Watching means focusing on our personal behavior.

Both approaches fall within the scope of the Greek word used in Matthew 24 to describe “watch.”

According to *Strong’s Concordance*, the Greek word (*gregoreo*) is a verb meaning “to keep watch” and “be on guard.”

Matthew 24:42-51 shows how watching applies to both approaches.

## **Watching for the thief**

*Matthew 24:42-44*—“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

## **Making right decisions**

*Matthew 24:45-47*—“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.”

## **Making wrong decisions**

*Matthew 24:48-49*—“But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards . . .”

Although a disciple should be mindful about all of the Father's instructions, the Son of God mentioned two mistakes to avoid.

- Beating a fellow servant
- Eating and drinking with the drunkards

The Son of God mentioned in symbolic language that there would be consequences for not watching.

*Matthew 24:50-51*—" . . . The master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### **Paul talked about watching**

*Acts 20:31*—"Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."

*1 Corinthians 16:13*—"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*—"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober."

### **John quoted Son of God**

*Revelation 3:2-3*—"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."