

Week 21

Watchfulness

"It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

- Lk 12:38-40

watch·ful \ˈwäch-fəl, ˈwöch-\ adj – (2) carefully observant or attentive: being on the watch (Merriam-Webster Collegiate 11th ed.)

In ancient Rome, the day was divided into eight shifts, four from sunrise to sunset and four covering sunset to sunrise. Each of these shifts were called a "watch" because the job was to pay attention and keep an eye on the assigned areas during those hours. In Luke, Jesus says that servants must be ready at all times, even during the second and third watches (roughly between 9PM and 3AM).

"The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

When Jesus was describing the Day of Judgment in Matthew 25, both the "sheep" and the "goats" asked him, "When did we see you ...?" Obviously, they had encountered Jesus but didn't realize it. Some of them used their ignorance as way to excuse their disregard for the people around them, while others had helped others, but not noticed that they were actually helping Jesus.

"The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Perhaps Jesus was trying to tell his disciples in Lk 12 that the Son of Man appears all the time, but we often fail to notice him because we are not "watching." In the study of the human brain, the process of training our brains to notice things is called "reticular formation." Our brains learn to pay attention to certain things and to filter out other things. Have you ever noticed that when you are looking to buy a car that you suddenly notice all the cars like the one you are looking to buy?

"The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

What if we began our day specifically looking for Jesus. What would we see that we had overlooked before? Whom would we notice? God is at work all around us. Perhaps we will notice his work and wonder in creation. Perhaps we will notice those little stress lines on a friend's face or coworker signaling something amiss in their life. Perhaps we will see an opportunity that we normally would have missed. Who knows?

"The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

This week

- When you wake up each morning, pray that God will open your eyes to see Him during the day.

Week 21

May 23-29

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			23
Pentecost	Encourage One Another (2)			
Mon	Deu 29,30	Acts 12	Psa 101	24
Tue	Deu 31	Acts 13	Psa 102	25
Wed	Deu 32	Acts 14	Psa 103	26
Thr	Deu 33,34+Josh 1	Acts 15	Psa 104	27
Paul Jividen				
Fri	Josh 2,3	Acts 16	Psa 105	28
Jessica Shelton				
Sat				29