Olivet Discourse—Part 8
"Four Characteristics of Jesus' Return"
Matthew 24:36-51

I. **Jesus' Return is Known Only by the F_____ (v. 36)**
   a. Jesus is NOT less than God and He didn't exchange His Deity for humanity (cf. Col. 2:9; John 1:1, 14; 4:34; 5:30; 6:38)
      i. Jesus is the "God-man" = fully God & fully man
      ii. **The Hypostatic Union** = two distinct natures, never mixed together, forever inseparable, in one Person.
      iii. But Jesus did empty Himself = **The Kenosis** (cf. Phil. 2:5-12)
      iv. ***kenoō*** (**κενόω**) "to empty oneself, to divest oneself of position"

   b. Three Views of Timing & Audience:
      i. The Rapture & Church Age Saints
      ii. The Day of the Lord & Tribulation Saints
      iii. Jesus' Return & Tribulation Saints

   c. <u>The Application</u>: Since you don't know when Jesus is returning, you MUST always be READY!

II. **Jesus' Return Will Be Like the Days of N_____ (vs. 37-42):**
   a. Jesus compares His return to the judgment of the flood (cf. Isa. 54:9; Ezek. 14:14, 20; Heb. 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5)

   b. The spiritually blind people did not realize judgment was coming (cf. Matt. 16:1-3; 2 Peter 2:5)
      i. The same will be true of those at Jesus' Second Coming (cf. Rev. 6:15-17; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)

   c. Jesus' imagery emphasizes the suddenness and surprise of His Return with family members being separated for judgment, NOT for the Rapture (cf. Luke 17:34)

   d. <u>The Application</u>: ***42 "<u>Therefore be on the alert</u>, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."***

III. **Jesus' Return Will Be Like a T_____ in the Night (vs. 43-44)**
   a. There is no negative connotation, just a sense of urgency

   b. The head of the house appears to know a thief is coming, but not precisely, so instead of being ready, he tries to time it perfectly and fails

   c. The Apostles Peter, Paul, and John all use this same imagery to teach the immense of Jesus' return and the urgency to be Ready (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Rev. 3:3; 16:15)

   d. <u>The Application</u>: ***44 For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.***

IV. **Jesus' Return Will Be Like an Unexpected M_____ (vs. 45-51)**
   a. Two Different Slaves ***put in charge of his household***
      i. ***Faithful and Sensible*** = found ***doing*** what the Master commanded ***when He comes***
         1. Receives eternal and possibly Millennial blessings

      ii. ***Evil*** = fooling himself into believing '***My Master is not coming for a long time***, so indulges the sin of his heart; ***begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards*** (cf. 2 Peter 3:3-4, 9ff)
         1. The Master comes unexpectedly and the slave is harshly punished; ***cut him in pieces*** (cf. 1 Sam. 15:33; 2 Sam. 12:31; Dan. 3:29; Heb. 11:37)
         2. ***a place with the hypocrites*** may indicate he was a professing but false Believer
         3. ***weeping and gnashing of teeth*** = HELL

   b. <u>The Application</u>: Be Ready for Jesus' Return because He ***will come on a day when*** [you do] ***not expect him and at an hour which*** [you do] ***not know***